Sandwell
CHRONICLE

Thursday, June 28, 2018 | Read by more than 46,000 people | Price when sold 70p

PIZZA BOSS MURDERER GETS LIFE

Report by Annabal Bagdi

Andre Ilie, jailed for life

A KILLER who murdered his pizza shop boss with a kitchen knife has been put behind bars for life for the 'savage and brutal' attack.

Takeaway worker Andrei Ilie was handed a 17-year minimum term for murdering father-of-two Masoud Esmailian. The Romanian native fatally wounded Mr Esmailian at the victim's West Bromwich flat in Montgomery Walk just hours after he had started his new job. Sentencing, Judge Melbourne Inman condemned 22-year-old Ilie for the 'formidable blow' which pierced through his victim's chest.

He said: "Mr Esmailian leaves a grieving family. His sons have lost their father and the opportunity of sharing their achievements in life with him. His death has devastated the family.

"It was a savage and brutal murder. You clearly remained calm and organised once you had killed. You have never shown any remorse. This was an attack with a fierce knife, which was used with considerable ferocity. Whilst there is no evidence of planning, this was a pre-meditated attack."

Homeless

Jurors unanimously convicted Ilie, then 19, of murder following a nine-day trial at Birmingham Crown Court earlier this month.

Mr Esmailian, who offered Ilie a place to stay after he claimed he was homeless, was stabbed in the chest in his Montogomery Walk flat.

The murderer – who had been in the UK for less than three months when he killed the 46-year-old – returned to his lodgings in Birmingham's Caplow Street by taxi and bus before fleeing to Romania.

Police discovered Mr Esmailian's body in his apartment after his sons raised the alarm when he failed to turn up for work at Roma Pizza in Winson Green, Birmingham.

A large bloodstained knife with fabric around the handle was recovered by detectives following the murder on August 28, 2015.

Safe standing review backed by West Brom

ALBION have welcomed an official review into safe standing at football grounds after sports minister Tracey Crouch said her 'mind is open' on the issue.

The announcement followed a Parliamentary debate on safe standing, which came after a petition was signed by 112,000 people calling for its introduction. Albion's pilot scheme to convert 3,600 seats in the Smethwick End into 'rail seats' was knocked back last month.

Addressing the Commons on Monday, Ms Crouch said that running the pilot would have required a law change. Albion have welcomed the review and are said to be open to future communications with ministers on the issue.

Shadow culture secretary and West Bromwich East MP Tom Watson said the Government had 'kicked their heels' on safe standing for too long, while the demand from clubs and fans had grown.

Canal locks targeted by yobs, again

VANDALS have been 'persistently' targeting a Black Country canal lock – potentially causing thousands of pounds of damage.

The attackers are continuing to strike at the Ryders Green locks on the Walsall Canal between West Bromwich and Great Bridge.

Over the past three weeks – and most recently on Monday – 10 water conservation locks have been smashed and five frog safety catches broken. As well as this, a lock gate collar was removed and numerous bolts have been removed from the gates.

It has resulted in significant amounts of flooding at the canal and making conditions dangerous for the community.

Communications manager for the Canal & River Trust, Stephen Hardy, said it was now "beyond a joke" – adding that the reason behind the vandalism was "hard to understand".

Burst water main floods street

The spectacular spray of water up to 30ft high. *Picture: Stephen Fairburn*

Warning to drivers

MOTORISTS were urged to avoid a busy road after a burst main sent water shooting into the sky.

There was rising flood water after the main burst in Chapel Lane, in Great Barr, on Tuesday.

At the time of the burst, water bosses warned that the road may be partially closed for up to four days.

South Staffs Water engineers were on site to deal with the problem after the incident which was believed to have affected at least two households in the locality.

Reports have suggested that rotting pipes may have been to blame for the burst.

Only single-file traffic was able to make it through the water which was described as "10in (25cm) deep". Some residents had reported low pressures and a loss of water supply since the incident and some may experience "water discolouration", a spokesman for South Staffs Water said.

Driving problems after the burst

HOUSING

Property prices go up by 200pc

PROPERTY prices in Sandwell have trebled in the past 18 years, new figures have revealed. A study has found the average price in the borough has shot up 204 per cent, from £47,661 to £144,961.

And it's a similar story across the Black Country with property price increases since the year 2000 increasing in Wolverhampton, up 183 per cent, Dudley, 189 per cent and Walsall, 198 per cent.

In Stafford, prices have gone up 189 per cent, and in Cannock 193 per cent.

Ron Darlington, partner at property auctioneer SDL Bigwood, said: "There is currently huge demand in the Black Country."

Mr Darlington said property prices had probably gone up quicker in West Bromwich and Walsall due to first-time buyers from Birmingham looking at neighbouring areas.

Sandwell was ranked 61st out of 100 areas for property price increases in the study by HouseSimple.com

Southend, Bristol and Cambridge came top of the rankings. In Southend, property prices had gone up 291 per cent.

Helen Guy,of Citizens Advice Bureau in the Black Country, said she had seen 'growing numbers' of people in privately rented homes. She said: "We want people to go into home ownership being clear that they understand their financial commitments."

TRANSPORT

All change! As Metro no longer in the pink

IT'S all change for metro services in the Black Country. Trams will be sporting a new blue look after the service was brought back into local authority control.

The striking blue trams will be seen pulling into Black Country stations having undergone a rebrand. The service will now be known as West Midlands Metro and will be run by Midland Metro Ltd, part of the region's combined authority.

White and pink carriages have become a familiar sight over the years for commuters but trams have been refreshed to mark the new era.

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INSIDE

Singer Jimmy's hooked on panto

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Open space fears with cemetery plan

OPEN green space and a home for wildlife in Rowley Regis could face the axe under new proposals to build a new cemetery.

The land in Powke Lane, located behind houses, is used as an open green space for residents.

Sandwell Council have confirmed they are developing proposals to build a cemetery on the land – in order to provide enough burial space for the town for many years to come.

But, Russell Bibb, who lives on Powke Lane, has slammed the proposals.

He said: "The area they are proposing to develop has been a nature reserve for many years.

"It's home to a large number of birds, foxes, badgers, bats, we even have an owl that visits every year.

"I feel that we will lose this urban oasis of wildlife if we start intruding with a cemetery.

"Not only this, it's also used by many families with young children and I just feel that there are better sites to explore for example the big green space opposite the crematorium that is hardly used and doesn't require the obliteration of wildlife.

"Powke Lane Open Space needs protection not developing."

Councillor Syeda Khatun, deputy leader, said: "There are proposals to develop part of what is currently known as Powke Lane Open Space for the purpose of a new cemetery and we have contacted residents whose properties are adjacent to the site in question to get some feedback on our proposals.

"This site is currently used for local amenity purposes.

"It is proposed to initially develop only part of the site, which will afford residents ongoing access to the remainder of the site.

"Subject to the necessary approvals the new cemetery will ensure that there will be sufficient new burial space and memorial options in the town of Rowley Regis for many years.

"A draft plan of the design proposals and location will be on display in the information board, on the website and in the reception area at Rowley Regis Crematorium for Sandwell residents to view."

Hook up with stars who put Pan in panto

BIRMINGHAM Hippodrome have announced their star line-up for this year's must-see festive family production of Peter Pan.

The high-flying pantomime favourite, stars Jimmy Osmond, Meera Syal, Midland-based comedian Matt Slack and Union J star Jaymi Hensley.

The Timbuktu Tumblers and Sascha Williams, will be sailing into the second city from Wednesday December 19.

In a career that has spanned four decades, Jimmy Osmond is the youngest member of The Osmonds, the American family music group who dominated the music industry in the 1970s.

Jimmy also became the Guinness Book of Records' youngest ever artist to achieve a UK number one single with Long Haired Lover from Liverpool.

Hooked – Jimmy Osmond

First panto – Meera Syal

Peter Pan – Jaymi Hensley

Matt Slack, back again

Finalist

Apart from an extensive career in the theatre, Jimmy has since appeared on several UK television shows including I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!, All Star Family Fortunes, Celebrity Come Dine with Me, Popstar to Operastar and was a finalist in last year's Celebrity Masterchef.

He will be swashing his buckle as the crocodile-fearing, Peter Pan-despising, left-hand-lacking Captain Hook.

Comedian, writer and actress Meera Syal makes her pantomime debut as the Magical Mermaid. West Midlands-born Meera is best known for her television work including writing and performing in the iconic BBC comedy Goodness Gracious Me and played Sushila in the International Emmy award-winning series The Kumars at No. 42. Meera was recently on our screens in drama The Split for the BBC as Goldie. On stage Meera has completed a four-month stint as the evil orphan owner Miss Hannigan in the West End production of Annie.

In 1997 she was appointed the MBE, and in 2015 received the CBE for services to drama and literature.

Back for his sixth consecutive Hippodrome pantomime, Birmingham's most popular entertainer Matt Slack returns to his pantomime home to star as Smee. Matt has won legions of fans making thousands of Midland panto audiences laugh each and every year with his trademark physical comedy, adlibs and local references.

Starring as Peter Pan, Union J star Jaymi Hensley makes his Hippodrome debut.

Having trained at the prestigious BRIT School for Performing Arts Jaymi joined the boyband Triple J in 2011, a popular trio who entered the ninth series of ITV's The X Factor.

With an additional bandmate the band reformed as Union J winning over the judges and audiences and coming fourth in the annual television talent competition.

Since then Union J went on to great success. Last year Jaymi reached the semi-finals of Celebrity Masterchef and has recently been seen as a judge on the CBBC talent search Got What It Takes.

Joining them as The Neverlanders will be the jaw-dropping acrobatic troupe The Timbuktu Tumblers. Presenting an incredible display of human pyramids, hoop-jumping and flaming limbo work, the team most recently starred in London's West End in Cirque Beserk at the Peacock Theatre.

Completing the line-up will be Sascha Williams as the Drunken Pirate.

As part of the speciality act Rola Bola, the death-defying stuntman was most recently seen sailing through to the semi-finals of Britain's Got Talent where he wowed the judges and audiences with his circus artistry of a 'Rola Rola' act.

Director Michael Harrison said: "We're delighted to, once again, have assembled such a stellar line-up for this year's production of Peter Pan, the first time the title has been staged there for thirteen years."

Packed to the crows-nest with laugh-out-loud comedy, spectacular special effects and music, audiences shouldn't leave it any longer to book

It runs from Wednesday, December 19 to Sunday January 27 2019. For tickets, call Information and Sales on 0844 338 5000 or visit www.birminghamhippodrome.com for details.

Community groups offer the chance to Celebrate

AN invitation has gone out for people to go along to the Celebrate Sandwell event in West Bromwich tomorrow, Friday, to find out what community groups and organisations have to offer.

Following the success of the first Celebrate Sandwell day last year, organisers have planned an even bigger and better event for 2018 with nearly 60 organisations taking part.

The free event runs from 11am to 3pm at West Bromwich Town Hall, with music, workshops, information stalls, fitness sessions and much more. Free food and refreshments will be available throughout the event kindly provided by volunteers and donations.

Stalls will be themed into three areas – community groups; health and therapy groups; and arts and museums organisations. It will be a real celebration of community, and an opportunity to find out about volunteering opportunities too.

Entertainment will include a hula hoop dancer, percussion workshops, storytelling, musicians, poets and much more. The Deputy Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Carol Goult, will also be attending.

An invasion of Vikings on way

THE Vikings are coming and will be invading the grounds of the Oak House Museum in West Bromwich this Sunday between noon and 5pm.

Visitors are invited to come along to see historical re-enactment group Hrafn Vaeringi, a local group who will be putting on displays of Viking fighting skills and combat demonstrations and information about Viking life.

There will also be lots of Viking-themed craft activities, quizzes and trails to enjoy for younger visitors.

Entrance is free but there may be a small charge for some activities. Tea room open courtesy of the Friends of the Oak House.

Careers advice on hand at council house

PARENTS and young people are invited to a careers advice and guidance event, to help inform families of what is available after school.

This free event gives parents of year 11 and unemployed young people, an opportunity to speak to careers advisers about their child's future. People can find out about apprenticeships, sixth form and college courses. Welfare Rights will also be there to tell you how you can extend your child benefit/tax credits.

It's on Saturday, from 10am-2pm, in the Council Chambers at Sandwell Council House in Oldbury.

Lower tram fares pledge by bosses of the Metro

CHEAPER fares are being promised from the bosses of the newly renamed West Midlands Metro after they took over the service.

After 18 years of being run by National Express, the Metro will now be run by Midland Metro Ltd, an arm of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).

Tram passengers are being promised lower fares and new ticket packages with the launch of the new era.

Fare changes include:

- The introduction of a Metro-only day ticket priced at £5.50 during peak periods and £4 after 9.30am and all day at weekends
- Reductions in some single and return fares by an average of around 10 per cent – making it easier for customers to have the correct change available
- The creation of a new Metro group ticket priced at £8.50 during the day and £5 after 6pm and all day at weekends

Councillor Roger Lawrence, leader of Wolverhampton council and the WMCA's transport chief, said: "This is a fantastic start from West Midlands Metro for passengers.

"Services being provided by a WMCA-owned company is an exciting new development in the story of the Metro, which is of fundamental importance to transport and the West Midlands economy. The tram network is a proven catalyst for economic growth and will be critical to best connect and feed into HS2 so we can reap the maximum economic benefits possible.

The West Midlands Metro website can be found at www.westmidlandsmetro.com

Expert advice on CVs and careers

MP John Spellar went back to school to see volunteers delivering a careers workshop.

The Warley MP visited Holly Lodge High School, in Smethwick, to meet year 12 students studying STEM subjects while Zurich delivered workshops.

Volunteers shared their tips on how to write a good CV and provided careers advice on opportunities within the insurance industry.

Students also put questions to the Zurich experts on a range of topics related to the world of employment.

These included information on how to get a foot on the career ladder and how to build a successful career. Mr Spellar said: "I enjoyed watching the volunteers in action and seeing first hand the real difference it made to the students getting careers advice from people already working in business."

Send your prom prints – and princesses

Girls seen in their prom outfits

THE school discos of our yesteryear are well and truly assigned to the history books for the modern generation.

When school's out for students today they do not head for the hall in jeans and T-shirt to enjoy warm pop and a 'funky' teacher hitting the decks.

Instead, they put on their ballgowns and black tie glamour for a night to remember – the school prom.

Dress hunting is a serious business as all girls want to be the belle of the ball. And it's not just about dressing to impress. Transport is almost as important as youngsters strive to make the biggest impression. So how much is this fairytale once-in-a-lifetime evening likely to set parents back? Well latest figures suggest we will spend an average of £500 on a daughter for prom night – and many will spend that on the dress alone.

But with a tear in their eye and proudly clicking away with the camera, most parents will no doubt think it is money well spent as they wave off their stunning prom-goers. We would like to see your beautiful prom-ising princesses and princes. Share your prom experience with us – the dresses, the motors and the school pals together for perhaps one last time.

Send us your pictures from these milestone events and we will carry as many as possible in the paper. You've dressed to impress so why not enjoy your moment in the spotlight in print?

Email your picture with names of those in the snapshot as well as details of the school and where the event took place to sue.attwater@expressandstar.co.uk

Emotional farewell to 'legend' ex-mayor Bill

"LEGEND, a pillar of the community, a man of the people."

These were just some of the many words used to describe husband, father, and former Sandwell mayor Bill Archer at his funeral on Saturday.

St Bartholomew's Church in Wednesbury was packed with family, friends and members of the public, all wishing to say goodbye to an 'amazing man' and councillor who died on June 2 aged 91.

The former mayor

Members of the Royal British Legion, as Mr Archer had been a soldier in the Second World War, led the coffin into the church – while the song 'Jerusalem' was played.

In a eulogy read by Sandwell Council's Phil Challoner, he said: "Words such as 'man of the people', 'legend' and 'pillar of the community', are often overused these days, but not in the case of Bill Archer. He wrote to every Prime Minister to fly the flag for Sandwell and highlight serious issues the borough, in particular his beloved Wednesbury. Known as the 'singing mayor' Bill raised a 'never to be matched to this day' £35,000 in 2005 and 2006 for his chosen charities Prostate Cancer Research and Guide Dogs for the Blind."

Mr Challoner also poignantly sang one of Bill's favourite songs, 'Bring Him Home' from the musical Les Miserables. And in a touching moment for everyone, a recording of Mr Archer himself singing 'If I Could Help Somebody' was played.

A poem was also played to the mourners, detailing Mr Archer's life, read and recorded by notable Wednesbury poet Brendan Hawthorne.

Mr Archer was affectionately known as 'Mr Wednesbury' and was a popular and well-known member of the community.

He had been battling prostate cancer for nearly 20 years, during which time he raised £15,000 to open a prostate unit in Sandwell Hospital.

During his 36-year career he served as a Tory councillor and was Sandwell mayor between 2005 and 2006, retiring in 2010, aged 83.

He was also a father, grandfather and great-grandfather, and had been married to his wife Freda for more than 70 years.

Part of the service held inside St Bartholomew's Church, during the funeral of Bill Archer

Family members reflect on the life of their loved one

Mourners, including council leader Steve Eling arrive

NEWS IN BRIEF

Years and Years to play Brum gig

POPULAR band Years and Years will play Birmingham later this year.

The announcement comes ahead of the release of the British synth-pop group's second album, Palo Santo, on July 6. It follows their critically-acclaimed debut Communion, which was released in 2015.

In January 2016, the group was nominated for four BRIT Awards, including British Group, British Breakthrough Act, British Single for King and British Artist Video, also for King.

Years and Years will play Arena Birmingham on November 30. To buy tickets to the show, go to arenabham.co.uk/whats-on/years-and-years

Gearing up for weekend of fun

MORE than 100 events will take place across the West Midlands as part of the first ever Mayor's Community Weekend.

Events taking place this weekend include a health and wellbeing awareness day at Wolverhampton Youth Zone and a huge bike ride at Walsall Arboretum.

They been organised largely by communities, using nearly £55,000 from the Big Lottery Fund.

For details visit https://www.wmca.org.uk/who-we-are/meet-the-mayor/mayors-community-weekend/

£600m uni sport centre accolade

A LEADING Midland university has won a top award recognising the quality of its new £600 million sports centre.

The University of Birmingham has collected a Royal Institute of British Architects award for its sport and fitness club's design and architecture.

The club is part of the £600 million investment into the university's campus, and was opened formally by the Princess Royal.

It features, among its facilities, a 50m pool, 10m climbing wall, five activity spaces and 200-piece gym.

Business network boost with expo

THE Midlands Business Network is getting ready for its June Expo in Birmingham.

The event runs at Aston Villa's Villa Park ground, tomorrow, Friday, from 10am to 3pm.

It features more than 100 exhibitors and hundreds of visiting businesses from across the region.

It is an opportunity for networking and raising the profile of businesses of all sizes.

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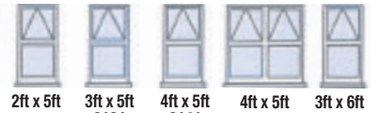

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COUNTY NEWS

Mortgage cheaper than rent – expert

THE average first-time buyer in the West Midlands can save nearly £1,000 a year once on the property ladder rather than renting. A Santander study found that across the UK first-time buyers would have lower monthly outgoings if they bought a property.

In every region of the UK, average monthly rental prices surpass average mortgage repayments. The UK average is £2,268 and for the West Midlands it is £996. The region's average rent is £679 a month, average house price for first-time buyers is £168,287 with monthly mortgage repayments £596 leaving buyers £83 a month better off.

Public services staff face costs

HIGH rental costs mean many public service employees in the West Midlands are spending more than a third of their wages on rent, according to new research.

Hospital porters are struggling the most, with rents swallowing up more than half of their take-home pay in 32 out of 33 local authority areas in the West Midlands, the Unison union said.

Findings are based on the average private rent for a one-bedroom property in each local authority area, compared with pay for some public sector jobs. Regionally, South Staffordshire is the most expensive area to live, followed by Sandwell and Stafford.

Rocker goes solo for acoustic show

THE former frontman of alternative rock band Mansun is to play in Wolverhampton on his first acoustic tour later this year. Singer and guitarist Paul Draper appears at Newhampton Arts Centre on November 15. He will be performing with guitarist Ben Sin and the concert will feature Mansun material and his latest solo songs.

Former in 1995, Mansun released three studio albums. Tickets are £15 and are now on sale from www.newhamptonarts.co.uk.

Dream of a show due at museum

A STORY of love, intrigue, magic and celebration will be taking centre stage in Bewdley next month.

The famous William Shakespeare play, A Midsummer Night's Dream, comes to Bewdley Museum on Sunday, July 1, from 5.30pm.

Tickets cost £12 for adults and £8 for children. To buy tickets, visit www.bewdleymuseum.co.uk.

School branching out after £2k grant

The forest school opens

A NEW forest school has opened at an Oldbury school thanks to £2,000 grant from Sandwell Council.

The forest school at Bristnall Hall Academy was created using a town grant from the council, donations from local companies and the George and Thomas Henry Salter Trust.

The garden area is for all students and will particularly benefit those with special educational needs and disabilities. It will also be available for the local community to use.

The forest school was officially opened by Councillor Syeda Khatun, deputy leader of Sandwell Council, and Councillor Suzanne Hartwell, Oldbury town lead. The ceremony was also attended by Councillor Carol Goult and Councillor Rajbir Singh.

Vince Green, school principal, said: "The development of this facility has been a brilliant community and academy effort.

"A huge thank you to Sandwell Council, local companies, the George and Thomas Henry Salter Trust, governors, students and staff, past and present, for all they have done in terms of funding and hard work.

"It will be great to see members of our community, including our amazing students, using this forest school area."

Decades of illness is nuclear tests' legacy

Report by Pete Madeley

A VETERAN of Britain's biggest nuclear test says his family has been ravaged by illness as a result of his exposure to harmful levels of radiation.

National Serviceman John Ward, from West Bromwich, was sent to Christmas Island in the South Pacific in 1958 as a shorthand typist for an RAF air vice marshal.

While there he witnessed six nuclear blasts as part of tests for Britain's hydrogen bomb programme. They included Operation Grapple Y, a 2.8 megaton hydrogen bomb that was the most powerful weapon Britain ever unleashed.

Mr Ward, aged 81, who became chief reporter for the Express & Star, says his exposure to radiation has taken a terrible toll on the health of his family. He has had bladder cancer, while his daughter Denise has suffered from serious illnesses for most of her life.

Tumour

Now 56, she had most of her teeth removed when she was a child, has suffered with bladder issues, her pancreas has stopped working properly and endured 14 years of unsuccessful fertility treatment. Mr Ward's son, Mark, 54, has had part of a kidney removed due to a cancerous tumour.

"I am convinced that I have passed down bad genes due to the radiation I was exposed to during the nuclear tests," he said. He is backing a campaign by West Bromwich East MP Tom Watson to give a medal to nuclear vets. The deputy Labour leader also wants an investigation into claims that servicemen were used as human guinea pigs for nuclear testing.

Mr Ward had not long turned 18 when he was called for National Service, signing on for an extra year on the basis that it allowed him to have a trade as a shorthand typist. He was dispatched to Christmas Island in the South Pacific where Britain's nuclear test programme took place, along with around 22,000 others.

The mushroom cloud after the huge blast

Eight-man tents for servicemen on Christmas Island

John, from West Bromwich

John in his white cotton suit

"We were facing back to the explosion and they warned us to put our hands over our eyes," he said. "You could see the bones in your hand and you heard this incredible bang, then you felt a rush of air. The next thing was that a searing heat came over you. Then the windrush nearly knocked you over.

"You turned around and looked at the bomb and you could see the mushroom cloud rise."

"We were not warned about the effects of the fallout and all we were given as protection was a white cotton suit, some gloves and a pair of dark glasses," he added.

Mr Ward, who now lives in Chesterfield, says recognition for the veterans of Britain's nuclear tests is long overdue. "It would help if we were issued a proper medal," he said. "As far as I am aware we are the only country involved in nuclear testing that has not recognised its veterans."

Labour deputy leader Mr Watson said: "We put these men in harm's way through no fault of their own, and they deserve recognition for their service to their country." The Ministry of defence said it is grateful to all those who participated in the testing.

To sign a petition in support of calls for a medal for the veterans, visit petitions/220170

Midland Met work may be left down to Government

THE Government may have to take over work on the stalled Midland Met Hospital if efforts to set up a new PFI construction contract fail, it has been revealed.

Work at the site in Smethwick has been at a standstill since original contractor Carillion collapsed in January and it is now expected the Midland Metropolitan Hospital will not now be completed until 2022.

The consortium of banks helping fund the project pulled out last month and it has now been confirmed that the Treasury has cancelled the original Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract that covered the construction of the hospital.

It will now attempt to set up a new PFI contract, under which a private company takes responsibility for the project but also secures a 25-30 year site maintenance deal. But there is no certainty that the market will look favourably on such a deal.

Although the Government still believes it is the most cost-effective way of getting the hospital built, major construction companies are increasingly shying away from PFI building work, worried about being left with huge bills if problems arise.

If a willing PFI partner cannot be found, the work will have to be completed as a directly-procured Government contract, paid for directly out of Treasury coffers.

Meanwhile Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust has warned that the building site is deteriorating due to a cold winter. The bill for repairs on the two-thirds complete hospital is expected to be in "eight figures".

Jimmy's Jukebox Show in UK tour

LEGENDARY hit maker Jimmy Osmond brings his 70s Jukebox Show to Staffordshire later this year.

The show includes nostalgic videos as well as stories of his superstar friends and includes a seven-piece band with a horn section, singers and dancers.

It will feature classics from Earth Wind & Fire and The Bee Gees to Elvis Presley and The Jacksons and everything in between, including all The Osmonds' hits.

"Get ready for a non-stop dance party as we celebrate the greatest hits of the 70s," Jimmy said.

The show is playing throughout the UK, with a date at Cannock's Prince of Wales Theatre on Sunday, September 16. Call 01942 828508 or visit boxoffice.wlct.org

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Blinders is nominated for three TV awards

PEAKY Blinders has been nominated for three TV Choice Awards.

Set in the Birmingham criminal underworld, Peaky Blinders has scored three nominations, with nods for best drama series, best actor for Cillian Murphy and best actress for Helen McCrory.

Poldark is also nominated in the best drama series category, alongside Doctor Foster and time-travelling romance Outlander, while Poldark star Aidan Turner will compete against Cillian Murphy for the best actor award alongside Doc Martin's Martin Clunes and Casualty's William Beck.

Helen McCrory will vie for the best actress award alongside Linda Bassett for Call The Midwife, Brenda Blethyn for Vera and Michelle Keegan for Our Girl. ITV2 dating show Love Island, which has brought in bumper ratings for the channel, is nominated for the best reality show prize, just months after it was honoured with a TV Bafta.

It will compete against First Dates/ First Dates Hotel, I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here! and The Island With Bear Grylls/Celebrity Island With Bear Grylls.

In the soap categories Coronation Street leads the way with six nods, with nominations for Jack P Shepherd and Shayne Ward as best soap actor, Lucy Fallon and Catherine Tyldesley for best soap

The ceremony will see Pointless star Richard Osman return as host at The Dorchester on September 10.

Voting for the TV Choice Awards is open until July 6 at www.tvchoicemagazine.co.uk.

Medical pioneers are highlighted

THE pioneering work of Birmingham Children's Hospital through the generations has been celebrated in a special BBC documentary to mark the 70th anniversary of the NHS.

The 30-minute show, part of a series entitled How the NHS Changed our World, aired on BBC 2 on Tuesday and showcased the work of world-leading liver and cardiac services, along with the revolutionary treatment that has helped save and change the lives of thousands of children and young people over the years.

Sarah-Jane Marsh, chief executive of Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We are so honoured the BBC have chosen to shine a light on our proud history, and offer viewers a fascinating insight into some of the many pioneering treatments invented at Birmingham Children's Hospital, that have not only improved health and healthcare here in the UK, but right across the globe."

Rep gets ready for Vicar of Dibley show

Oldbury Rep's cast for the Vicar of Dibley

A THEATRE'S latest production will take audiences to the village of Dibley and the arrival of a certain new vicar in an adaptation of the classic sitcom.

The Vicar of Dibley comes to the Oldbury Rep's main house between July 7 and July 14.

The stage version takes its source from the first two series of the popular television show and is about the reception of a female vicar receives upon being assigned to a small farming village in Oxfordshire. It was created by Richard Curtis and Paul Mayhew Archer and written for its lead actress Dawn French. The award-winning show aired between 1994 and 2007.

A spokesman for the theatre said: "At first the village community is horrified at having received a female vicar from the head church, however, they eventually learn to accept her as she learns – and challenges – the steadfast ways of the village. She manoeuvres her way into the hearts of the parishioners and the community in which she lives.

"An end of season treat for all the family with all your favourite characters from the hugely popular TV series. Relive the arrival of the new female vicar, Geraldine Granger, and meet again the many insane inhabitants of the quiet village of Dibley."

Performances start at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £10, with concessions at £9. Special price tickets for £8 are available on Monday and Tuesday evenings. To book, call the box office on 0121 552 2761 or visit www.oldburyrep.org.

Smiling for Joel at 100-mile challenge

Report by Steven Jones

A FUNDRAISING challenge in memory of terror attack victim Joel Richards has raised more than £15,000.

Joel, from Wednesbury, was among those murdered in the Tunisia terror attack in 2015, along with his uncle, Adrian Evans, and grandfather, Pat Evans.

On Friday and Saturday, June 8 and 9, staff at the University of Worcester covered 100 miles in 24 hours to raise money for SmileForJoel, a registered charity set up by Joel's mother and brother. Joel studied at the university and his brother, Owen, 18, is also a first year sports studies student.

The challenge saw staff taking to the roads, countryside and water around the county and beyond in a variety of physical challenges.

Owen said: "It's amazing; just the task itself, physically and mentally. It gives a real message of how much SmileForJoel means to people here that they want to put their bodies and minds through all of that.

"It's inspiring for us that they're willing to do all that in Joel's memory and that of Ade and my grandad.

"Joel loved sport and anyone that knew him would know that it's exactly the kind of thing he would have got involved in. Obviously he's not here to do it and that's heartbreaking for us as a family."

Staff took part in a gruelling 25-mile overnight walk as well as a 51-mile cycle, 14-mile canoe on the River Severn, 10-mile run and 300m outdoor swim. Organiser Tom Taylor, the university's assistant director of security and operations, said: "Sport was what Joel was involved in, that was his passion, so it seemed fitting."

For details see justgiving.com/fundraising/universityofworcester2018 or www.smileforjoel.com.

Fundraisers take part in the 10-mile run as part of the challenge by the University of Worcester

Joel Richards, who studied at Worcester university

Participants in the 14-mile canoeing challenge

NEWS IN BRIEF

Wood you believe it as star rocks on

ROY Wood will return with his annual Midland festive spectacular this Christmas. The Birmingham-born star of ELO, Wizzard and The Move fame brings his Rockmas show to the city's Symphony Hall on December 2.

Tickets for the concert are now on sale, priced at £35.50.

Roy Wood was born on November 8, 1947, in Kitts Green, Birmingham, was recently inducted into The Rock And Roll Hall Of Fame in New York.

The singer often returns to The Robin 2 in Bilston for gig too. Joining the star last Christmas was Black Country comedian Jonny Cole and all-female rock band JOANovARC.

Forces honoured at historic hall

A FAMILY fun day will mark 100 years since the formation of the Royal Air Force and the end of the First World War next weekend.

Armed Forces Day will be honoured at Himley Hall and Park. Dudley Council will celebrate the work of servicemen and women, past and present, on July 1.

Sergeant Adam Sefton and fellow members of the Dudley Army Reserves have also been helping to prepare for the event, which runs 11am to 5pm. For more information: www.himleyhallandpark.co.uk/armedforcesday

Takeaway plan for town cafe

A CAFE could be transformed into a takeaway restaurant under new plans. Plans have been submitted to Sandwell Council to turn the cafe in Market Place, in High Street, Rowley Regis, into a Love Peri Peri takeaway.

A design and access statement with the application states: "Working in conjunction with knowledge on the existing restaurants from the franchise, Love Peri Peri are looking at developing the existing cafe into a QSR (quick service restaurant). The site is part of a high street comprised mainly of retail and a few food outlets."

Gabrielle won't be Out of Reach at city gig

GABRIELLE will perform a show for fans in Birmingham this summer.

The R 'n' B and soul star, aged 48, is best known for songs such as Out Of Reach, Dreams, Rise, Sunshine, Give Me A Little More Time, and Going Nowhere.

Hackney-born Gabrielle has had a total of 10 UK top 10 singles, two of which went to number one.

She will play the O2 Institute 2 in Digbeth on August 8.

IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

'Hygiene poverty' is a real stinker

THIS sounds like something out of Oliver Twist, but Staffordshire headmistress Nicola Finney says she has spent hundreds of pounds of her own money on soap, deodorant and toothpaste for pupils who repeatedly turn up to school in a filthy state.

According to the charity In Kind, she is not alone. A survey it carried out revealed that 36 per cent of teachers who responded provided toothpaste, 29 per cent had bought soap, and 27 had bought treatments for head lice, or nits as they used to be known. Perhaps the words "who responded" are crucial to the reliability of that survey, but nevertheless it is shocking that in this day and age children are being sent to school smelly and unwashed.

The survey says "hygiene poverty" is a growing problem in Britain's schools, with a growing number of parents unable to afford basic washing products. I do think it would be interesting, though, if, at the same time. those who commissioned the survey had dug a little deeper and spoken to the parents about the reasons why they were unable to ensure their children went to school in a respectable state.

For example, how many of those claiming their children are too poor to wash have flat-screen TVs, for example? Do they have mobile phones, home computers? Do they smoke or drink? If so, I would have thought that personal hygiene was surely more of a priority.

Perhaps I'm being uncharitable, but a quick look on the Aldi website reveals that you can buy a bottle of shower gel for 33p, four bars of soap for 59p, and roll-on deodorants for 45p. We're hardly talking big-ticket items here.

I'm pretty sure that even during the Great Depression, when there was hardship unlike anything we term as poverty today, most parents would have managed to make sure their children washed before they went to school.

Miss Finney is clearly a very kind, dedicated headmistress, and her pupils are lucky to have somebody who cares so much about their welfare.

But at the same time I do worry that in hiding behind terminology such as "hygiene poverty", we are simply making excuses for bad parenting which, at its most extreme, is tantamount to child abuse.

More than that, I can't help but think that it is a great insult to the vast majority of parents on low incomes who would willingly starve than subject their children to the indignity of having their teachers issuing them with soap.

Millions watch TV from Russia with love for football

Harry Kane in Volgograd, where only 3,000 fans turned up, and only 2,000 to watch Panama

Prince Charles – maybe hoping to boost his green credentials with a Tesla electric car?

Phillip Lee – one of those who fell on his sword over the ongoing Brexit unrest in Parliament

Will Kane be able to bring out the fans?

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

POLITICAL terms of our time. Meaningful Vote: an opportunity for the Brexit vote of 17.4 million Britons to be overturned by a few dozen Remain MPs – in the name of democracy. Fudged a few days ago but still lurking.

LOVED the opening line on The World at One (Radio 4): "Canada has legalised cannabis. We'll be speaking to the high commissioner."

I WROTE recently that in more than 40 years in journalism, I had yet to hear a single reader complain about being a victim of upskirting. A correspondent says this is because it's a modern crime, made possible by tiny cameras. He may have a point. In ye olden days, even if you managed to smuggle your glass-plate camera and tripod under a lady's crinoline, the explosion of magnesium flash-powder was a dead giveaway.

THE shortest and most thought-provoking comment on taking photographs up ladies' skirts came in an online debate this week: "Upskirt. Wimbledon."

STRANGE, isn't it, that while around 2,000 England fans have travelled to the latest World Cup game against Panama in Russia, up to 25 million viewers are reckoned to have tuned in to see Harry Kane's heroic hat-trick in the England v Panama match? I bet the answer is that while the beautiful game has lost none of its fascination, there's deep unease about endorsing Russia in any way.

THE Salisbury nerve-agent affair may be part of the explanation for the low turnout of World Cup fans. But, while the jury is still out on that incident, a full international inquiry has left no doubt that Russia has blood on its hands for shooting down Flight MH17 over Ukraine in 2014, and killing 298 innocents. Maybe it's that casual act of mass murder, or maybe fear of Russian hooligans, that keeps supporters out of Russia.

I SUGGESTED we might celebrate Brexit Day next March by setting off fireworks. A reader takes me to task: "Why would you like to terrorise animals around the country by such an antic?" What animals? As all serious Remoaners know, by the time we leave the EU the economy will have collapsed, we'll all be living in mud huts scavenging for food and all the cows, sheep, cats, rats, dogs and hamsters will have been eaten long ago. Our rockets will fall harmlessly into a bleak and blasted apocalyptic landscape. Or am I thinking of the millennium bug?

I HAVE no idea how this got past the marketing people but I see the Arla dairy co-operative is selling "Farmers Own Milk." Arla is based in Leeds but doesn't it put you in mind of Royston Vasey?

HALF a page of the Daily Telegraph was devoted to a report about the Prince of Wales hoping to acquire an American electric car, the Tesla. We were informed that Prince Charles' people have been speaking to Tesla for more than a year about the acquisition. Very odd. Buying cars is normally quick and simple. So what can the hold-up be? Unless, of course, this is not a sale at all but a freebie arrangement in which Tesla supplies the car, HRH polishes his green credentials by saying nice things about electric vehicles and the Telegraph splashes what is in effect a free advert.

ON the same day, quite by chance, my electricity bill arrived. It's a reminder that electric cars are clean and green only if they are powered by clean, green electricity. In 2016-17 less than a quarter of UK electricity came from renewable sources and more than half came from nasty ol' planet-warming coal and gas. Put that in your Tesla and burn it.

THE Guardian reports that in a question-and-answer session at the Labour Live "Jezfest," a former councillor candidate called for "specific mental-health resources for people who have stood in elections and failed to win."

AS this Brexit debate reaches its climax, watch out for more ritual falling on swords, as performed by the Tory justice minister Phillip Lee, followed by half-a-dozen of Corbyn's front-benchers. They get their moment of high principle but, because no-one outside Westminster has ever heard of them, it hardly shakes the nation. I was reminded of that sketch when Peter Cook as a senior RAF officer orders a pilot (Jonathan Miller) on a doomed mission with the words: "We need a futile gesture at this stage. It will raise the whole tone of the war."

TALKING POINT

Counting the cost of holiday behaviour

GETTING ready for a fortnight in the sun can be a daunting prospect for many, what with packing the right clothes, cancelling the papers and checking your passport is valid.

But how many of us consider how we'd react if faced with that most dreaded of problems – the holiday trouble-maker.

This year's World Cup has generated plenty of headlines about fears of possible hooliganism, and rightly so.

However, with the main holiday season just beginning, perhaps the media should be turning its attention to how some people misbehave while taking their well-earned break.

According to a recent survey, one in 20 Britons – five per cent – have been asked to leave a hotel with being drunk and disorderly, not surprisingly, the most common reason. Other misdemeanours include causing excessive noise, and inviting people to the hotel.

How about apologising? Well, the survey found that just 11 per cent were forgiven and allowed back in by the hotel management.

Now, before anyone points to the reputation Britons have for being rowdy, take a look at these figures: one in eight (12 per cent) French holiday makers have been removed from a hotel, followed by those from Germany (nine per cent), Spain (six per cent) and Italy (three per cent).

In this supposedly money-rich, time-poor era, it seems absurd that having saved up for a holiday, so many people choose to spoil it for themselves – and, more importantly, others – by not knowing how to behave.

On a lighter note, the survey by price comparison website hotelscan.com also asked for examples of embarrassing experiences.

Falling over turned out to be the most common, with that comedy staple of 'suitcase spilling open' not far behind.

The most telling though was 'showing off, only for it to go wrong', which no doubt comes about from being so inebriated in the first place.

It's almost a badge of honour to drink to the point of oblivion, to demonstrate their capacity for booze which, combined with blazing sunshine and not having to get up for work the next day, can have a devastating effect.

So, to anyone about to set off for a holiday, remember it can be a long and expensive trek home if you find yourself with nowhere to stay.

But there again, there's always next year if it all goes wrong!

STEVE PARLETT

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Apprenticeships worked back in the 1950s

THERE is now a movement to promote technical education at secondary school level to ensure that the country has the skills necessary to compete internationally after Brexit.

The Black Country's industrial needs were recognised 100 years ago. In Smethwick in 1914 the Junior Technical School was founded which in 1947 became The James Watt Secondary Technical School. Entry to the school required the same qualification as entry to the complementary Holly Lodge Grammar school, an 11-plus pass. The five-year curriculum led to O-Levels but with a scientific bias.

The follow-up came from companies like Birmid Industries, which in conjunction with the local authority and the Institutions of Metallurgists and of Production Engineers, provided sandwich course student apprenticeships. These involved alternate periods of six months at college and six months in the works leading to a double higher national certificate which was accepted as equivalent to a degree. At the end of the apprenticeship the company had someone, not only technically qualified but who had done every job in the works and was immediately capable of assuming a supervisory role.

The point is we do not need to reinvent the wheel but only need to resurrect what Birmid and GKN were doing, in association with the professional institutions, in the 1950s.

BRIAN OSBORNE
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
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Sickness of failing shops

THE closure of the House of Fraser to Birmingham isn't just about a store closing and the loss of jobs, it's a sickness that is haunting our town centres.

These are high-profile retailers that bring with them prestige and recognition. Of course we know many of the problems in our high streets are down to internet shopping, and with free postage on many goods it brings into focus expensive transport costs and ridiculous parking fees.

How many times these dangers have been highlighted by shoppers and writers to the local media is beyond recall, but of course our councillors and transport bosses are not listening and one by one big stores are moving their businesses to lower rate premises and out of town retail parks.

The House of Fraser situation should be a wake-up call to landlords and councils but I doubt it as they've been elected for a few more years and now it's the gravy train for them, not a headache of actually doing something.

S T VAUGHAN
Yardley Wood

Un-fare move

NOW have I got this right? Wolverhampton Council is issuing nationwide, taxi licences that are quicker and cheaper than elsewhere

Local cabbies fear for their livelihoods and threaten a go-slow. The council call this pointless and it will coincide with the World Cup. Well, Wolverhampton Council, when the non-local cabbies do not join the dispute, it will prove the point of the local cabbies, won't it?

ROBERT W WHITE
Wigmore

Tories ready to plant Corbyn's post-Brexit magic money tree

IN a move worthy of shadow chancellor of the exchequer John McDonnell, it appears that May has decided that the Corbyn magic money tree should be planted in Tory soil. Gone are the dire warnings of controlling two trillion pounds worth of national debt. Gone are the years of necessary austerity. We now know that the NHS will sometime in the 2020s receive cash galore.

This will be paid for by some as yet unspecified huge hike in taxation (it used to be the Tory boast that their policies on reducing taxes left more cash in our pockets). Add to that the benefit from Brexit and the Tory maths add up like a Dianne Abbott answer to her O Level Maths questions...I dare say there will also be some headline shortly about 'care for the aged' so it's all going to be great.

I guess the fly in the ointment is that as a Brexiter myself, I see very little financial gain in the short to medium term. Brexit concerns our long term future. Short term, May and her merry band have committed huge sums to the EU in order to achieve some illusory benefit on trade with the EU.

Am I to believe that even after Brexit, money will not have to be spent in the areas presently using the EU monetary crutch eg farming and Wales? It's all is just another bit of flimflam from a desperate and incompetent government.

ALAN M ETHERIDGE
Dudley

ADVERTORIAL

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First World War 100th to be marked

First World War hero Harold John Colley VC

PLANS are taking shape in Sandwell in order to commemorate 100 years since the end of the First World War.

Council staff are drawing up a programme for the summer and autumn in the lead up to the centenary of the Armistice in November, when services and parades will be held across the six towns. Museums, libraries and archives staff are planning a poppy-related poster project called Sandwell Remembers, as well as exhibitions, displays and creative sessions with schools.

A new floral display of poppies has been planted in the Oak House Museum historic orchard area and Manor House Museum will hold a 100 Years Garden Party on August 5 to commemorate the centenary of both the end of the war and the first women getting the right to vote.

In November, Sandwell will be hosting a special Festival of Remembrance event and taking part in a national beacon-lighting chain.

An event will also be held at Victoria Park, in Smethwick, on August 25 to unveil a commemorative paving stone in honour of Harold John Colley VC. Smethwick-born Colley – who was living in Cheshire Road during the war – was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery on the Western Front in August 1918 when he was killed in action aged 24.

Tom reports PM on claim for Brexit NHS boost

TOM Watson has reported the Prime Minister to advertising watchdogs over claims a 'Brexit dividend' will partly fund a major cash boost for the NHS.

By Peter Madeley

According to Theresa May, the NHS will get an extra £20 billion a year by 2023 – an increase of 3.4 per cent – with the extra cash coming from possible tax rises and money saved once Britain no longer has to pay into the EU.

A graphic posted on Mrs May's official Number 10 Twitter account said: "Our long-term plan for the NHS. Funded by the Brexit dividend with us as a country contributing a bit more."

Labour deputy leader Tom Watson said the claim was 'at best misleading and at worst a complete myth'. He has written to the Advertising Standards Agency (ASA) demanding action.

In his letter to ASA chief executive Guy Parker, West Bromwich East MP and shadow culture secretary Mr Watson, said: "The ASA website states clearly that 'local authorities, government and other public bodies should be aware that their ad campaigns, like those of commercial companies, are subject to the rules in the Advertising Codes'.

"The thread of graphics posted by the UK Prime Minister Twitter account was an ad campaign promoting the Government's policy to millions of followers.

"The website goes on to say 'the ASA will intervene if an ad by a public body crosses the line, whether that's through being harmful, offensive or misleading… government departments, local authorities and other public bodies should also ensure that their ads are not misleading'. Unfortunately, the 'Brexit dividend' is widely regarded as at best misleading and at worst a complete myth."

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Express & Star

Raider jailed after she targeted students' home

A BURGLAR has been jailed for a year for raiding a student property in Smethwick while in breach of a suspended sentence.

Anne O'Halloran, aged 37, appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court last Tuesday via video link to answer a charge of burglary.

By Dayna Farrington

O'Halloran, of Woodhurst Road, Moseley, Birmingham, pleaded guilty to burglary in relation to an incident at a property in Cape Hill on May 25.

The court heard that she entered the property – student shared accommodation – through an open window to steal a handbag, its contents, £40 and five euros – before being disturbed by the residents. For committing the latest offence, she was also in breach of a 12-week suspended sentence for a theft offence handed to her only a month prior. O'Halloran also admitted she was in breach.

Prosecuting, Madhu Rai, said: "The victim was in the kitchen at around 8pm with her room mate. She went into her room and saw the defendant behind the door putting various items in a bag. The victim was in shock. The complainant tried to pull the defendant into the kitchen.

"The defendant was saying she wouldn't hurt anyone. She pulled her into the kitchen and her room mate went to get help. Neighbours phoned the police and one of them held onto the defendant until the police arrived. Threats had been made to the complainant by the defendant.

"She was arrested. When the defendant was searched the cash fell from her. All of the items stolen have been recovered."

Carl Templar-Vasey, defending, said: "She expresses remorse and she didn't mean any harm to the complainant – she extends her apologies to them."

Judge Dean Kershaw sentenced O'Halloran to nine months in custody for the burglary and three months for the breach of her suspended sentence – to run consecutively.

He said: "The offence took place while the students were living in their shared accommodation. Those students should have been able to feel safe to leave their window open after going into the kitchen and not worrying about people climbing in from outside and stealing contents.

"You have an issue with alcohol. You were intoxicated at the time. Witnesses described you as on drugs or under the influence of alcohol.

Austin backs healthy eating for youngsters

MP Ian Austin with staff and students at Bramford Primary

DUDLEY MP Ian Austin recently visited a school to talk to students about a government healthy eating programme.

He visited Bramford Primary School, in Bilston, to meet headteacher Lisa Guest and Year 1 pupils who are benefitting from free fruit and vegetables.

The School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme (SFVS) is a government programme that has been running since 2002. It entitles every child aged four to six in state schools to a free piece of fruit or vegetable each school day.

The Dudley North MP said: "Healthy eating at a young age is so important for physical health and learning, so it was great to go along to Bramford Primary School and meet pupils who are benefiting from this great scheme and it's really important the Government continue it in future."

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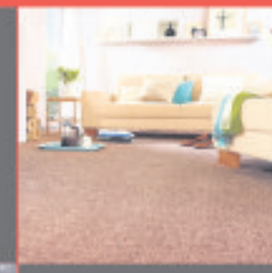

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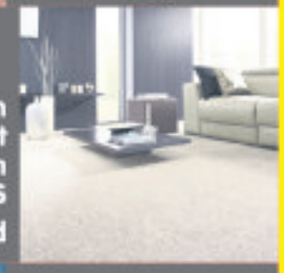

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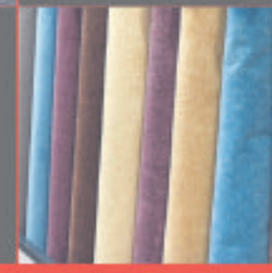

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Mayor: No call for travel injunction

THE mayor of West Midlands has hit back at suggestions he is not doing enough to combat crime on public transport. Earlier this week, police chief David Jamieson suggested the mayor had 'questions to answer' following a rise in crime on public transport.

Speaking at the Strategic Policing and Crime Board last Tuesday, the police and crime commissioner highlighted a failure to issue a single travel injunction as evidence mayor Andy Street and his team should be doing more. The ability to issue travel injunctions was first given to the combined authority in early 2017. But the mayor has now had his say on the matter, claiming noone has yet justified the use of a travel injunction.

A spokesman from his office said: "The simple answer is we haven't yet had anyone who has continued to act anti-socially to any significant degree that hasn't stopped following the other interventions, or been dealt with criminally."

The charred remains of one of the rooms at RAK Ceramics in West Bromwich

40 firefighters battle ceramics factory blaze

AROUND 40 firefighters tackled a major blaze at a factory in the Black Country.

A ground-floor stock room at RAK Ceramics was destroyed in the fire in Birmingham Road, West Bromwich, which started at around 4.30am last Friday. The blaze was out by 6.30am but not before around 60 per cent of the factory was damaged by fire and smoke.

At the peak of the fire eight pumps were used to battle the flames and three fire engines were still at the scene damping down at 9am.

It is not yet known what started the blaze but nobody is believed to have been injured.

Crews from West Bromwich, Smethwick, Handsworth, Oldbury, Ladywood and Tipton were all sent to the unit. A West Midlands Fire spokesman said: "We got the 999 call at 4.33am to Birmingham Road in West Bromwich.

"It was a severe fire in factory unit and at the height of the blaze we had eight fire engines at the scene.

"The fire was located in the ground-floor stock room.

"The stock room was 100 per cent destroyed by the fire and 60 per cent of the factory was affected.

"18 firefighters wearing breathing apparatus were using two main jets and sectioned the fire."

Delight as Ofsted give school the thumbs-up

STUDENTS and staff are celebrating after Ofsted rated their academy as 'good' once again, recognising its continued success.

By Dayna Farrington

Inspectors visited Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy (OSCA), in Tividale, last month as part of a short inspection. The report described how the academy's leadership has 'maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection'.

They also praised the academy's executive principal, Marie McMahon, for leading the academy 'well', supported 'effectively by other senior and middle leaders'.

It added: "You have created an inclusive and purposeful environment. OSCA is a welcoming school. Pupils enjoy their education and staff are proud of the school. There are new systems and actions in place to address those pupils' outcomes that are in need of improvement. You show commitment to raising standards through securing high-quality teaching and learning.

"However, you acknowledge that more time is needed to fully embed the changes so that they have a direct, positive effect on outcomes. While some groups make strong progress, disadvantaged pupils and the most able pupils have performed less well in some subjects. You and your leaders know that the progress of those pupils needs to improve further, especially in science. The leadership team has ensured that all safeguarding arrangements are fit for purpose. The school has a strong culture of safeguarding.

"Leaders and staff ensure pupils' safety and welfare."

The academy, which is sponsored by Ormiston Academies Trust (OAT), was previously rated as 'good' by Ofsted in April 2015. The latest report follows their success in last year's GCSE results with students achieving the best results in the academy's history.

Ms McMahon said: "I am delighted that Ofsted has recognised all the excellent work going on here at OSCA, and that this 'health check' has confirmed that we are well on our way to 'outstanding'. There are many comments I am delighted with, but to hear an inspector say that OSCA is a special place was quite simply one of the proudest moments on my career."

Shockwaves at threat by Airbus

THE warning from aerospace giant Airbus that it could pull out of the UK with the loss of thousands of jobs in the event of a "no-deal" Brexit has sent shockwaves around the West Midlands. The region is a major base for aerospace manufacturers, including UTAS and Moog in Wolverhampton who both provide parts to Airbus.

Many business leaders have called on the Government to take heed after Airbus, which employs 14,000 people at 25 sites across the country, said it would "reconsider its investments in the UK, and its long-term footprint in the country" if Britain crashed out of the single market and customs union without a transition agreement.

Corin Crane, chief executive of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, said the announcement "comes as no surprise". "Boardrooms across the country have been raising concerns regarding a distinct lack of clarity on what Brexit negotiations mean for their business," he said.

Boot is on the other foot with kitman's view of things

The boot which has scored five goals!

Former West Bromwich Albion kitman Pat Frost in the England changing room at the World Cup

Harry Kane's two man of the match trophies

Ex-Baggie Pat's tweet success

WHILE the country is still celebrating England cleaning up their Panamanian opposition, one man had some other cleaning to do – hat-trick hero Harry Kane's boots.

England kitman Pat Frost has been keeping the England faithful updated on the behind-the-scenes goings on in Russia with a series of posts from his twitter account @KitmanPat.

The former West Bromwich Albion kitman posted a series of tweets following England's 6-1 win over Panama, including a shot of Kane's boots and his two man of the match awards. While the country gets caught up in World Cup fever over the efforts of Gareth Southgate's side, Pat also got into the swing of things, joining a series of tongue in cheek posts from fans with his own "football's coming home".

As captain Kane and his fellow teammates were back in training ahead of today, Thursday's clash with Belgium Pat posted a picture of the skipper's right boot with the message "Just gone to clean this little sucker . . . it's going to have to wait . . . it's still too hot to hold".

Praised

The Telford kitman's account has more than 16,000 followers, and has long been a favourite with football fans for his insights into the behind-the-scenes world of professional football.

Following the Panama win he praised the efforts of the team, saying: "6 goals . . . 6 points . . . 1 hat trick . . . it's coming home . . . what a day . . . see you in Kaliningrad." In the build-up to the match Pat also posted a picture of the England fans preparing for the match, including a flag from his former side, West Bromwich Albion. In another tweet he posted a picture of a Baggies flag in the printing area of the kitroom in Russia, saying 'a little bit of the Black Country here'.

England will be hoping Pat brings them luck after the kitman was also with the England under 20 team for their World Cup success last year. His importance to the team was illustrated with a note from the winning goalkeeper, Freddie Woodman, which said: "I would like to take the time to appreciate the help and support you gave me during our time away."

Pat's England flag has a familiar feel to it

Parade in the park to mark forces' event

PEOPLE from across Sandwell and beyond are invited to show their support for Britain's Armed Forces community at a special event in West Bromwich.

Dartmouth Park will play host to the Armed Forces Day event on Saturday, with a parade, family fun day, children's activities and entertainment all planned. The military parade will start the event at 11am, so allow enough time to arrive on site and get a good position to watch the parade.

After the formal part of the event, enjoy a family fun day running until 4pm with various stalls and attractions.

There will be entertainment on stage including dance groups, singers and Halesowen Brass Band. Activities will include a land train, climbing wall, youth bus and table football.

It's free entry with a small charge for some activities.

Councillor Bill Gavan, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for leisure, said: "This is a great opportunity for people to come along and support our Armed Forces community. We hope that there will be a good turnout.

"People can see the parade and then get involved with some family fun entertainment in one of our fantastic Green Flag-awarded parks."

Fairway beckons for Albion stars

WEST Bromwich Albion stars from the past took to the golf course with supporters to raise money for the club's former players' association.

Tony 'Bomber' Brown, Don Goodman, Bob Taylor and Joe Mayo were among those to take part at the event at Walsall Golf Club.

They went round the course with groups of supporters and local businessmen.

Organiser Geoff Snape said: "It's a great event where we can get together while also raising money for the association."

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Matches to generate £23m for city economy

THIS summer's international cricket programme at Edgbaston is estimated to be bringing £23 million to Birmingham's economy.

The West Midlands Growth Company says it will benefit hotels and other businesses in the tourism sector.

Edgbaston hosted England's Vitality International T20 match against Australia yesterday, Wednesday, the first match of England's Specsavers Test series against India from August 1 to 5 and the Vitality Blast Finals Day, which comes to Birmingham for the 10th time on September 15.

Neil Snowball, chief executive of Warwickshire County Cricket Club, said: "Major match programmes don't get much better than England games against Australia and India in the same summer.

"Edgbaston and Birmingham have proven to be outstanding hosts for the biggest matches in the game, by ensuring that there are strong match day transport links to and from the stadium and an impressive range of accommodation, restaurants and leisure facilities to utilise around the match.

"This partnership helped Edgbaston win a further 31 days of major match cricket between 2020 and 2024, as part of the England and Wales Cricket Board's allocation that it made earlier this year."

In addition to this year's programme, Edgbaston hosts one of its biggest ever programmes of major match cricket in 2019 when it hosts five games, including a semi-final, in the ICC Cricket World Cup and a Test match in the Specsavers Ashes Series against Australia.

Nicola Hewitt, commercial director at the West Midlands Growth Company, which operates leisure tourism programme Visit Birmingham, added:

"Top domestic and international cricket at Edgbaston Stadium is a quintessential part of a Birmingham summer."

Museum treasures treat

Visitor service assistant Danielle Foster with some of the antiques which will be featured at the Manor House Museum

A MUSEUM is inviting antique experts and collectors to join its own antiques roadshow.

The 13th century Manor House Museum in West Bromwich is holding the 'Antiques at The Manor' event on July 15, inviting antique experts and novices alike to explore the different items on show.

Abbey Butler, Visitors Service Officer at The Manor House Museum, said: "We're hoping to have the ground and first floor completely full with stalls and make it the best event it can be."

The event is runs from 9.30am-3.30pm and admission is £1.50 per person with under 16s free.

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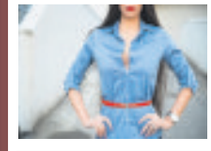

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12.45pm-1.15pm

Kick Start
1.15pm-1.30pm

Albert Pritchard Infants School
1.30pm-1.45pm

Sandwell Flyers
1.45pm-2.00pm

Fizzogs
2.00pm-2.20pm

Irish Band
2.20pm-2.40pm

Wood Green Junior School
2.40pm-2.55pm

Elite All Stars
2.55pm-3.10pm

Wodensborough Ormiston Academy Dancers
3.10pm-3.25pm

Livingston Dance Academy
3.25pm-3.40pm

Cheer Angels
3.40pm-4.00pm

Wednesbury Fire Cadets
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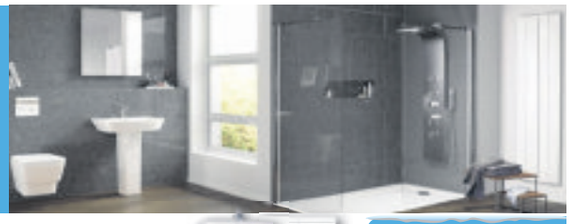

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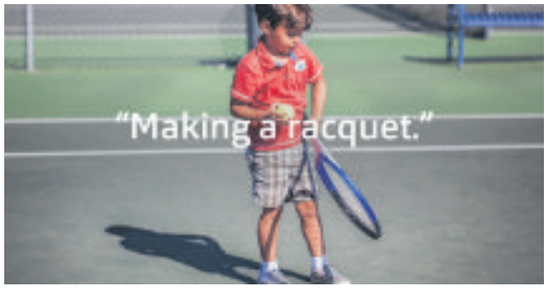

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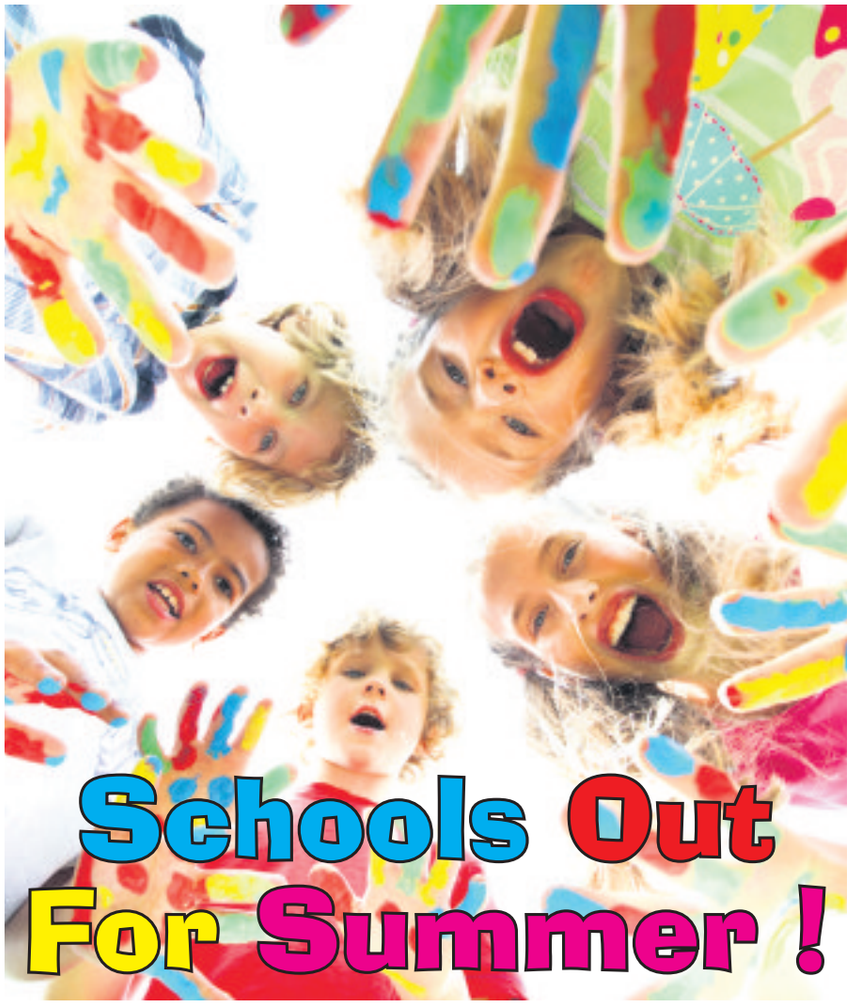

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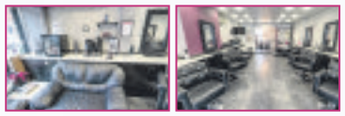

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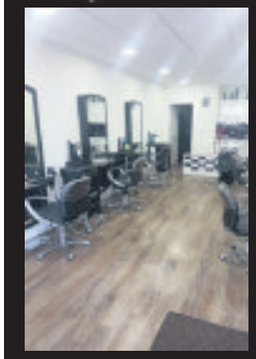

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THEATRE + MUSIC + TV LISTINGS + PUZZLES

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

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The Vine in West Bromwich used to be called the Midlands' best-kept secret, but after winning the title of 'National Curry Pub of the Year' for three years and with thousands of visitors every week, the secret's out!

Offering a warm welcome to everybody who visits The Vine, the award-winning pub has visitors from far and wide across the UK – with many visiting for a taste of The Vine's famous chicken tikka alone.

Owned by Suki and Bhanu Patel, the couple have been running the well-loved pub for almost 40 years and are well known by regulars. The couple's children, Bharat and Hema, have also joined them to help The Vine go from strength to strength.

The curry pub has under-gone a great deal of change over the last couple of years, with refurbishment work in the barbecue room and conservatory, followed by a facelift for the bar, front rooms, and toilets to bring a fresh new look throughout.

But the real secret of The Vine's success is the food. From its famous chicken tikka and claypot dishes to an extensive range of curries, this is dining on a different level.

Choose something sizzling hot from the barbecue, or design Your Curry, Your Way – where you can choose your favourite sauce and ingredients and have them served just as you like them with your choice of sides and accompaniments.

With all dishes cooked freshly to order, The Vine can accommodate to your needs. There are also a range of vegetarian dishes available too.

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

TRADITIONAL REAL ALE PUB

Manager Mandy always ensure a warm welcome to customers old and new at the Waggon & Horses in Oldbury.

Waggon & Horses also showcase all the major sporting events from Football to Boxing all featured on Sky Sports, BT Sports and Box Nation. For those who like 'doing' rather than 'watching' there is the availability of the Pool Table.

The pub itself boasts a wide range of ciders, lagers, wines and spirits including 'Real Ales' which they rotate weekly. Regulars very often enjoy ales such as Bathams, AJ Ales, Oakham, JHB, Stairway To Heaven and MA Pardoes Entire, Plus many more!.

The pub also run a loyalty scheme which means customers get 10p back on their card for every pound spend.

The pub also has regular live entertainment over weekends and also offers a FREE Juke box on a Friday night.

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It's always best to play the baddies

It's won more than 85 international awards. Matilda The Musical is the multi-award winning musical from the Royal Shakespeare Company, inspired by the beloved book by the incomparable Roald Dahl.

With the book by Dennis Kelly and original songs by Tim Minchin, Matilda The Musical is the story of an extraordinary little girl who, armed with a vivid imagination and a sharp mind, dares to take a stand and change her own destiny.

The show continues to delight audiences in London, Australia and on tour around the USA and a major new production will open at Birmingham Hippodrome on Tuesday, running until September 8.

It stars Craige Els, who will reprise the role of Miss Trunchbull having played her in the West End for three years between 2014 and 2017. He will be joined by Carly Thoms as Miss Honey, and Sebastien Torkia and Rebecca Thornhill as Mr and Mrs Wormwood.

Craige trained at Drama Studio London and Aberystwyth University before going on to appear in a series of hit shows. He loves playing Miss Trunchbull and is thrilled to bring it out of the West End to Birmingham.

"Baddies are always the best to play, plus I am too old to play Matilda so there is no chance there. With the role of Miss Trunchbull, I think everyone who has played it will agree that roles like that don't come along that often, they are beautifully written characters but yet so mean and horrible that it gives you the chance to make them as real and as mean as possible but also make them entertaining at the same time. It is most definitely a wonderful and unique challenge and that's why I have enjoyed doing it for so long. Roles like this do not come along that often.

"In the West End you get pretty much a West End crowd with a lot of tourists, so it's nice to take the show to regional places and have local crowds come and watch it and we are in our second venue of the tour and already the crowds are loving it."

Award-winner – Matilda The Musical arrives in Birmingham

PLEASURE

Craige decided to get into acting as a teenager. It was a surprise to his family but they were supportive and eventually thrilled when he made a go of it.

"I decided that when I was about 15 or 16 that I wanted to do acting and it was a bit of a shock to my family because there were no drama clubs near me and my school didn't even offer it as a subject at GCSE or A Level. For me, it came from enjoying making my friends laugh and making my mum and nan giggle on the weekends. I found that pleasure in entertaining people and I decided I wanted to pursue that. So I went to university and studied drama at Aberystwyth University for three years and then after that I went and did a one-year postgraduate at Drama Studio London where I was able to concentrate more on the practical side of it all. After that like the thousands of others, I left drama school and joined the big wide world and started to audition for things."

Craige isn't the only one happy that Matilda is on the road. Dennis Kelly, who wrote the show, said: "It's been a long time coming but I'm delighted that we get to take Matilda around the UK and to Ireland. We have some fantastic theatres, supported by smart, engaged audiences and we can't wait to bring this crazy, messy, anarchic explosion of a show to them."

Tim Minchin, who wrote the show's music and lyrics, said: "I – like millions of others – feel like Roald Dahl is in my blood, because I grew up with his books. So to have contributed to a piece of work that brings one of his most famous stories to life is one of my life's great joys. I'm utterly thrilled that audiences in cities all across the UK and Ireland will now share and be part of Matilda's story."

And Catherine Mallyon, RSC executive director, adds: "We are thrilled our home-grown miracle, which started life after a seven year gestation in Stratford-upon-Avon, has grown into a bit of a global phenomenon. Following Matilda's successful run on Broadway, our current tours around North America, Australia and New Zealand, and continuing into our sixth year at the Cambridge Theatre in London's West End, it is fantastic that we can share Matilda with audiences around the UK and in Ireland. In collaboration with our touring partners we will also deliver a programme of ground-breaking interactive education projects to enable young people to emulate Matilda, sharing the extraordinary power of story-telling and the boundless creativity of their imaginations."

I – like millions of others – feel like Roald Dahl is in my blood

Matilda The Musical has now been seen by more than 7.7 million people worldwide. Having swept the board at the 2012 Olivier Awards, with a record-breaking seven awards, and winning four Tony Awards and a Tony Honor for Excellence in the Theatre for the four girls sharing the title role on Broadway, Matilda The Musical has now played in more than 60 cities and has played 5,500 performances worldwide.

After winning a Sydney Theatre Award for Best Musical in 2015, the Australian and New Zealand tour has now played sold-out seasons in Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide and Auckland. In July 2016, Matilda The Musical broke further records by winning all 13 Helpmann Awards for which it was nominated. The show will have its first non-English language production at the LG Arts Centre in Seoul, South Korea from September 2018 until February 2019.

Andy Richardson

● **For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.**

Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott

Beautiful duo are back together at Forest Live

IT'S been a remarkable return to the top for singer Paul Heaton.

The former Housemartins and Beautiful South singer seemed to have drifted from the nation's radar as a run of solo albums failed to reach the same dizzy heights as records with his former bands.

However, since reuniting with former Beautiful South singer Jacqui Abbott with 2014's What Have We Become?, Heaton has enjoyed a new lease of life.

The duo will be in concert on Saturday at Cannock Chase for Forest Live with support from Billy Bragg.

What Have We Become? earned Heaton and Abbot a gold disc, glowing reviews and a series of sell-out shows. The follow-up, Wisdom, Laughter and Lies, was another hit.

Heaton said he'd felt honoured to renew his working relationship with Abbott, having played together in The Beautiful South for six years from 1994 to 2000.

He said: "Jacqui is one of the best singers I've worked with and is also part of my past. That album came together easily because we work so well together. The album title Wisdom, Laughter and Lies derived from a line in one of the songs and it sort of summed up where I was in life."

Abbott said: "It's just great to be singing again. We had such a good run together previously and it's just a real pleasure to be working with him again and singing these fantastic songs."

Last year the duo resumed their partnership for their third collaborative record, Crooked Calypso.

By George, travel broadens the mind

George Ezra will be enjoying the great outdoors this summer with a series of festival and racecourse concerts, including his headline set at Forest Live on Cannock Chase this Sunday.

Ezra is one of the biggest selling male artists of the decade and destined for more success thanks to chart-topping second album, Staying At Tamara's and single Shotgun, fast becoming THE song of summer 2018.

His debut, Wanted On Voyage, was certified four times platinum in the UK, and was amongst the top 10 biggest selling artist albums in this country in both 2014 and 2015, reaching number one in the UK chart and spending 122 weeks in the chart. It yielded hit singles Budapest and Blame It On Me.

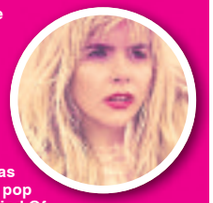
In little more than 18 months, the tall mellow-voiced singer-songwriter from Hertfordshire went from virtual unknown to one of the biggest international breakthrough artists of recent times with a top 10 album in 10 countries and three sold out UK tours.

George returned last summer with a new single Don't Matter Now and sold out tour, and a summer of festival performances.

His new album features hit singles Paradise and Shotgun. Like his debut, Staying At Tamara's was inspired by George's travels – including spells on the Isle of Skye; at a pig farm in Norfolk; in a shed in Kent; a converted cow shed in Wales; and an Airbnb in Barcelona owned by the Tamara of the title. The result is a finger-snapping, brass-blaring, wind-in-the-hair album that shines with positivity alongside moments of reflection.

His concert will be the last of three sold out nights at Forest Live.

Paloma makes own kind of music



Paloma Faith finally made it to the top of the charts with her fourth album, The Architect. She had enjoyed three successive number two albums but reached the coveted top spot for the first time in November.

Her most recent single was a cover of Mann and Weil pop classic Make Your Own Kind Of Music, a hit for Mama Cass Elliot in 1969, helped by its inclusion on TV advertising for Skoda cars. She headlines the first of the weekend's three Forest Live concerts tomorrow (Friday).

Marley brings reggae sounds from Stony Hill

Grammy Award winner Damian 'Jr Gong' Marley is in concert at Birmingham's 02 Academy on Saturday.

The youngest son of reggae legend Bob Marley, Damian garnered his own place in music history when he became the first ever reggae artist to win a Grammy outside the 'Reggae' category, taking home an award for 'Best Urban/Alternative' performance for his 2005 breakthrough single Welcome To Jamrock.

He has gone on to collaborate with Gwen Stefani, Nas, Cypress Hill, Sean Paul, Skrillex and with Jay-Z, featuring on the latter's track Bam from the 4.44 album.

Marley's fourth studio album Stony Hill won last year's Grammy for best reggae album, marking the third time the 39-year-old singer, songwriter and record producer has won the award.

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SATURDAY'S TV JUNE 30

CHOICE

Eric Clapton

Eric Clapton: Life in 12 Bars (BBC2, 9pm)
Documentary profiling the blues guitarist, narrated by the man himself, as he charts his six decades in the music business, and why his insatiable desire to grow his artistic voice led him to quit a stream of successful bands, from the Yardbirds and John Mayall and the Bluesbreakers to short-lived supergroups Cream and Blind Faith. Clapton also talks about his battles with drugs and alcohol, his love for George Harrison's wife Pattie Boyd and the tragic loss of his son in an accident. Including archive interviews with BB King, George Harrison and Jimi Hendrix.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Simply Nigella. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Wanted Down Under. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.30** Garden Rescue. (R) **3.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **4.15 Film:** Monsters vs Aliens. (2009) Animated sci-fi comedy, with the voice of Reese Witherspoon. **5.40** Celebrity Mastermind. (R)
6.10 BBC News.
6.20 BBC Regional News; Weather.
6.30 Pointless Celebrities. Tim Rice, Don Black, Connie Fisher, Siobhan Dillon, Claire Sweeney, Nigel Planer, Cory English and Phill Jupitus take part. (R)
7.20 Who Dares Wins. Game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.
8.00 Inspector George Gently. The first of two final cases for the detective, played by Martin Shaw. Gently is on the brink of retirement when he, Bacchus and Coles re-open the case of a woman convicted of killing her husband, hoping to uncover a long-buried miscarriage of justice. However, the investigation places Gently's career on the line and stirs up tension with Bacchus, who worked on the original investigation. (R)
9.30 Mrs Brown's Boys. Trevor has decided to work for a mission project in Africa, so Agnes resolves to give him an unforgettable send-off, while Cathy's family counselling session descends into chaos. (R)
10.00 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.
10.20 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights.
11.05 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay.
12.45 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.50 BBC News.

In the event of live football being shown, the schedule may run as follows:

2.30 MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) **5.10** Money for Nothing (S, R) **6.10** News (S) **6.20** Local News; Weather (S) **6.30** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) **9.15** Mrs Brown's Boys (S, R) **9.45** News; Weather (S) **10.05** Little Fockers (2010) (S) **11.35** MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay (S) **1.20** BBC News (S)

BBC2

6.25 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **6.45** Absolute Genius Super Tech with Dick & Dom. **7.15** Officially Amazing Goes Bunkers. **7.45** The Dengineers. (R) **8.15** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. (R) **8.45** Deadly Dinosaurs with Steve Backshall. (R) **9.15** Natural Born Winners. (R) **10.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.15** Second Chance Summer: Tuscany. (R) **12.15** Tennis: Eastbourne. The Nature Valley International final. **3.00** Coast. (R) **3.25** Natural World: Madagascar, Lemurs and Spies. (R) **4.25** The World's Most Extraordinary Homes. (R) **5.25** The World Cup: Heroes of '66. Dan Walker presents a profile of the World Cup-winning squad managed by Alf Ramsey, featuring interviews with Geoff Hurst, Bobby Moore, Gordon Banks and Jack and Bobby Charlton. (R)
6.00 Managing England: The Impossible Job. A look at the history of the role of England football manager, featuring interviews with current boss Gareth Southgate and former incumbents including Sven-Goran Eriksson. (R)
7.00 Coastal Path. Explorer Paul Rose takes in the north Cornish coast, touring Tintagel Castle, experiencing the hustle and bustle of Padstow's 'Obby 'Oss festival, and visiting St Ives. (R)
7.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring and the platoon try to capture three German airmen who have landed in a lake after bailing out and intend to stay in their dinghy until nightfall. (R)
8.00 The NHS: To Provide All People. A film poem charting a day in the life of a regional hospital. Written by Owen Sheers to mark the birth of the NHS 70 years ago and performed by a stellar cast of acting talent.
9.00 Eric Clapton: Life in 12 Bars. Documentary profiling the blues guitarist, touching on his battles with drugs and alcohol and why his desire to grow his artistic voice led him to quit a stream of successful bands.
11.05 Film: Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll. (2010) Biopic of influential punk singer Ian Dury, focusing on the impact his rise to fame and volatile personality had on his relationship with his son. With Andy Serkis and Bill Milner.
12.55 Film: Mea Culpa. (2014) **2.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.35** Dino Dana. **6.50** Mission Employable. **6.55** The Oddbods Show. **7.05** Ninjago: Tournament of Elements. **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Saturday. **9.25** James Martin's American Adventure. (R) **9.55** Long Lost Family: What Happened Next. **10.55** The Best of the Voice Worldwide. **11.50** ITV News; Weather. **12.00** ITV Racing: Live from Newcastle. **2.30** Countrywise. (R) **3.00** Tenable. (R) **4.00** Celebrity Tipping Point. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R)
6.00 ITV News; Weather.
6.15 ITV News London; Weather.
6.30 Film: The Amazing Spider-Man. (2012) A gifted teenager investigates the secrets hidden in his dead parents' past, leading him to a mysterious corporation and an incident that imbues him with superhuman powers. A personal tragedy drives him to use his new-found abilities to fight crime, and he is soon drawn into a deadly battle against a former colleague of his father, who has undergone a devastating transformation of his own. Superhero adventure reboot, starring Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone and Rhys Ifans.
9.00 Bear's Mission with Anthony Joshua. Adventurer Bear Grylls teaches the unified world heavyweight champion some alternative survival skills. The duo start off on the notorious Commando Ridge in Cornwall, where the boxer has to climb granite rock, alpine traverses and sharp pinnacles. Next, Bear surprises AJ with a tricky descent – a major challenge for anyone nervous of heights – with a "death drop" on all sides. (R)
10.00 ITV News; Weather.
10.15 FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights.
11.15 Film: Rocky IV. (1985)
1.00 Jackpot247. **3.00** Mr Selfridge.

In the event of live football being shown, the schedule may run as follows:

2.30 FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) **5.15** Catchphrase (S, R) **6.00** News; Weather (S) **6.15** Local News; Weather (S) **6.30** FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) **9.15** Bear's Mission with Anthony Joshua (S, R) **10.00** News; Weather (S) **10.20** Rocky IV (1985) (S) **12.05** Jackpot247 **3.00** Mr Selfridge (S, R) **3.50** Nightscreen

CHANNEL 4

6.20 The King of Queens. (R) **6.45** The King of Queens. (R) **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** Formula 1 Austrian Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. Further coverage from the ninth round of the season at Red Bull Ring in Spielberg. **12.25** F1 Meets Murray Walker. (R) **12.55** Formula 1 Austrian Grand Prix Qualifying Live. Coverage from Red Bull Ring in Spielberg (Start-time 2.00pm). **3.45** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.45** Escape to the Chateau: DIY. (R) **5.50** Channel 4 News.
6.20 Film: Titanic. (1997) A party of explorers studying the sunken remains of the famous liner meets an elderly woman who was a passenger on the ill-fated maiden voyage. She recounts how she boarded the ship while on the brink of being forced into marriage by her family, and was stopped from killing herself by a penniless artist. She fell in love with her saviour, but the disaster on the horizon meant their time together was doomed to be short. James Cameron's Oscar-winning romantic drama, starring Kate Winslet, Leonardo DiCaprio, Billy Zane, Kathy Bates and Bill Paxton.
10.00 Film: Taken 2. (2012) Former CIA agent Bryan Mills fights to rescue his ex-wife from an Albanian gangster whose son he killed. Action thriller sequel, starring Liam Neeson and Famke Janssen.
11.50 Micky Flanagan: Back in the Game. The comedian performs to his home crowd at London's Hackney Empire, regaling his audience with tales of middle age, marriage and a man's prerogative. (R)
1.20 The Big Narstie Show. The Grime MC and co-host Mo the Comedian present a late-night, alternative entertainment show, joined by celebrity guests to discuss the week's news, TV and trends. (R) **2.15** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Joel decides to focus on Cleo's health and buys them both fitness watches, while Holly is worried she has made a big mistake. (R) **4.25** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. Kirstie Allsopp helps a couple transform their suburban semi. (R) **4.45** Wedding Town. The staff faces one of the busiest days of the year. (R) **5.10** Cheap Cheap Cheap. Marijana takes fashion inspiration from Noel. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.40** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud. **11.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.05** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **2.05** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R) **3.05 Film:** Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde. (2003) Comedy sequel, starring Reese Witherspoon. **4.10** Access. **4.15 Film:** Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde. (2003) Concluded. **4.55** 5 News Weekend. **5.00** The Wonderful World of Puppies.
6.00 Blind Date. Paul O'Grady hosts as model and self-confessed attention seeker Plum and dancer Jose each choose between three unseen suitors, based on their answers to a series of questions.
7.00 Karen Carpenter: Goodbye to Love. Part-dramatised documentary detailing the pop icon's career through the 1970s, when she and older brother Richard clocked up 80 million record sales, to her untimely death from anorexia nervosa.at the age of 32. Richard's addiction to prescription sleeping pills is also explored, as is Karen's abuse of a variety of drugs including laxatives, vomit-inducing syrup and thyroid medication which she illicitly took to speed up her metabolism. Featuring testimony from friends and Carpenters insiders, including Karen's lovers, close advisers and singer Dionne Warwick. Narrated by Iain Glenn. (R)
9.00 Carpenters: Their Greatest Hits. Performances and official music videos of 16 songs featuring the brother-and-sister duo. Narrator Ken Bruce also offers interesting facts regarding Richard and Karen's act. (R)
10.00 The Michael McIntyre Story. Documentary about the comedian's rise to fame, examining his breakthrough performance at the 2006 Royal Variety show and role in the reinvention of stand-up comedy on TV. (R)
11.30 Michael McIntyre: Live at the Comedy Store. The comedian performs at the famous Soho comedy club. (R)
12.00 SuperCasino. **2.40 Film:** Fight Club. (1999) **5.00** Access. **5.10** House Busters. (R) **5.35** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Earth's Greatest Spectacles **8.00** Simon King's Shetland Diaries **9.00** Hidden **10.00** Timeshift: The Rules of Drinking **11.00** Sound of Cinema: The Music That Made the Movies **12.00** Indie Classics at the BBC **1.00** Top of the Pops: 1985 **1.30** Duran Duran: A Night In **2.30** Simon King's Shetland Diaries **3.30** Close
ITV2
11.40 Catchphrase **12.25 Film:** Around the World in 80 Days (2004) **1.30** FYI Daily **1.35 Film:** Around the World in 80 Days (2004) **2.50 Film:** Beethoven (1992) **3.55** FYI Daily **4.00 Film:** Beethoven (1992) **4.35 Film:** Happy Feet (2006) **5.40** FYI Daily **5.45 Film:** Happy Feet (2006) **6.45 Film:** Step Up 3 (2010) **7.50** FYI Daily **7.55 Film:** Step Up 3 (2010) **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hot List **10.05** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad! **1.20** CelebAbility **2.00** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
3.00 Vera **5.00** Midsomer Murders **7.00** Maigret **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Vera **1.00** Honest **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
12.00 Cash Cowboys **1.00** Pawn Stars **1.30 Film:** The War Wagon (1967) **2.30** FYI Daily **2.35 Film:** The War Wagon (1967) **3.40 Film:** The Alamo (1960) **4.45** FYI Daily **4.50 Film:** The Alamo (1960) **6.55** The Chase: Celebrity Special **8.00** River Monsters **9.00 Film:** The Gauntlet (1977) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** The Gauntlet (1977) **11.15 Film:** Born to Raise Hell (2010) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20 Film:** Born to Raise Hell (2010) **1.20** Minder **2.20** The Protectors **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.05 The Goldbergs **1.05** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.05** Young Sheldon **2.40 Film:** Cheaper By the Dozen 2 (2005) **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** AVP: Alien vs Predator (2004) **10.50** Gogglebox **1.00** Tattoo Fixers **2.05** Rude Tube **4.15** Rude(ish) Tube **4.40** How I Met Your Mother
Film4
11.00 Fletch (1985) **1.00** How to Train Your Dragon (2010) **2.50** Mr Popper's Penguins (2011) **4.40** Night at the Museum (2006) **6.50** Ride Along (2014) **9.00** Commando (1985) **10.45** Green Room (2015) **12.35** Blue Ruin (2014) **2.20** In Fear (2013) **4.00** Close

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SUNDAY'S TV JULY 1

CHOICE

Romesh Ranganathan

The Misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan (BBC2, 9pm)
New series. The comedian visits countries that are rarely visited by tourists to get a sense of the local culture and find out if they deserve their reputation. His first destination is Haiti, a country mostly famous for a dictatorship and a series of natural disasters. Accompanied by journalist Jeremy Dupain, he visits the iron market, attends vodou ceremonies, and explores a cathedral destroyed by an earthquake.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Points of View. **1.30** Songs of Praise. **2.05 Film:** The Silent Child. (2017) **2.30** Escape to the Continent. (R) **3.30** Wanted Down Under. (R) **4.25** Money for Nothing. (R) **5.10** A Question of Sport. (R) **5.40** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.30 BBC News.

6.50 BBC Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Margherita Taylor present the show from Dorset, visiting a nature reserve famous for birds or prey and meeting a couple with a thriving sea fishing business. Plus, Adam Henson visits a farm that is helping people to rebuild their lives, Tom Heap reports on the challenges facing rural schools, and Anita Rani meets one of the contenders in the show's search for a young presenter.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce visits Floors Castle in Roxburghshire, where items include a piece of Robert Burns memorabilia, a diamond pendant and a jade figurine that is not quite what it seems. A marble carving of a baby is the hit of the day for Marc Allum, while a fragile cup and saucer that have survived unscathed since the 18th century are another rare find.

9.00 Poldark. Ross, Sam and Dwight race to the rescue when blasting in the mines causes a disastrous flood. Ossie plans to have Morwenna committed to an asylum.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 BBC Regional News; Weather.

10.30 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights.

11.15 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay.

12.55 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.00** BBC News.

In the event of live football being shown, the schedule may run as follows:

2.30 MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) **5.10** News (S) **5.20** Local News; Weather (S) 5.30 Countryfile (S) **6.30** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) **9.10** Poldark (S) **10.10** News (S) **10.30** Local News; Weather (S) **10.40** Celebrities on the NHS Frontline (S, R) **11.40** MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay (S) **1.25** BBC News (S)

BBC2

6.25 Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **7.10** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.10** Countryfile. (R) **9.05** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.35** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.05** Wimbledon 2017 Review. **12.00** Athletics: Diamond League Paris Highlights. **1.00** Live Athletics: British Championships. The second and final day from Birmingham. **5.00** Flog It! (R) **5.30 Film:** Into the Woods. (2014) A wicked witch agrees to lift a curse on a young couple if they will help restore her once beautiful looks. Musical fantasy, starring Meryl Streep and Emily Blunt.

7.30 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing. Paul and Bob fish for barbel in Hay-on-Wye, and sample the great outdoors in spectacular fashion when Mortimer decides to strip in celebration of their catch. (R)

8.00 Russia with Simon Reeve. On the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution, adventurer Simon Reeve embarks on a journey across the world's biggest country. He begins in Russia's far east, and the snow-capped volcanoes of Kamchatka and Yakutia, where reindeer herders live in temperatures as low as minus 30. Outside the eastern port of Vladivostok, Simon investigates the growing influence of China on the area, then passes through the Boreal Forest, where he meets a conservationist dedicated to protecting the Amur tiger. His final destination is a giant hole in the ground in Siberia. (R)

9.00 The Misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan. New series. The comedian visits countries that are rarely visited by tourists to get a sense of the local culture and find out if they deserve their reputation. His first destination is Haiti, a country mostly famous for a dictatorship and a series of natural disasters.

10.00 Reporting Trump's First Year: The Fourth Estate. Shortly after FBI director James Comey is fired, The Times is onto a huge scoop with ongoing reverberations regarding Comey's memos about his meetings with President Trump.

11.00 Best of Glastonbury 2017. Jo Whiley and Mark Radcliffe introduce highlights from the festival at Worthy Farm in Somerset. (R)

1.10 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.10** Holby City. (R) **3.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Employable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** Ninjago: Tournament of Elements. (R) **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Sunday. **9.25** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **10.25** The Best of the Voice Worldwide. **11.20** Midsomer Murders. (R) **1.20** ITV News; Weather. **1.30** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **2.30** Countrywise. (R) **3.00 Film:** Despicable Me. (2010) **5.00** The Chase. (R)

6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 ITV News London; Weather.

6.30 Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs. Paul and the staff try an unconventional technique to calm down an over-excited mongrel.

7.00 Vera. A mother of two is found murdered in her back garden. Vera and Aiden investigate the case, and delve into the disturbing secrets and ongoing conflicts that lurk beneath the surface of the victim's seemingly peaceful suburban community. The case takes a more complicated turn when the dead woman's estranged family make an unexpected reappearance, and while several of her neighbours may have had cause to carry out a crime of passion, her relatives may have had compelling motives of their own to kill.

9.00 Holiday Horrors: Caught on Camera. Documentary series looking at what can go wrong on holiday, including a ski trip that became a fight for survival, and a horrific case of sunburn. (R)

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights.

11.15 The Big Fish Off. (R)

12.10 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

In the event of live football being shown, the schedule may run as follows:

2.30 FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) **5.15** Catchphrase (S, R) **6.00** News (S) **6.15** Local News (S) **6.30** FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) **9.15** Holiday Horrors: Caught on Camera (S, R) **10.00** News; Weather (S) **10.20** Killer Women with Piers Morgan (S, R) **11.15** The Big Fish Off (S, R) **12.10** Jackpot247 **3.00** Motorsport UK 2018 (S, R) **3.50** Nightscreen **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show (S, R)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Motor Sport: Caterham. **6.30** Mobil 1: The Grid. **7.00** Motor Sport: British Rally Championship. **7.25** Frasier. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Bake Off: The Professionals. (R) **10.00** Sunday Brunch. **1.00** Formula 1 Austrian Grand Prix Live Build-Up. A look ahead to the ninth round of the season. **1.40** Formula 1 Austrian Grand Prix Live. Coverage of the ninth round of the season (Start-time 2.10pm). **4.30** Formula 1 Austrian Grand Prix Live Reaction. A review of the ninth round of the season. **5.30** Bang on Budget.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Escape to the Chateau. As Dick and Ángel prepare for winter, they attend a food festival in Rouen, where they hope to find inspiration over what to do with their fresh fruit and vegetables. Angel adds the finishing touches to the floating geodesic dome in time for a family sleepover, while Dick gets to work fixing the crumbling stucco. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 Bake Off: The Professionals. Liam Charles and Tom Allen host the semi-final of the culinary contest, in which the four remaining teams must take on a secret recipe challenge, create a three-tiered cake, and rise to the unusual challenge of "live plating" to impress judges Cherish Finden and Benoit Blin and win a place in next week's final.

9.00 The Handmaid's Tale. An incident sends shockwaves through both Gilead and Little America. Serena Joy makes a dangerous choice in order to protect her family. Moira searches for someone from her past.

10.15 Night and Day. Spanish crime thriller in which a forensic pathologist is drawn into a dangerous web of torture and scandal surrounding an elusive killer after a man she slept with is killed. The full series is available online.

11.20 Film: Alien. (1979) A cargo spacecraft is invaded by a deadly creature that begins preying on the crew. Ridley Scott's sci-fi horror, with Sigourney Weaver, Tom Skerritt, Ian Holm and John Hurt.

1.40 The Last Leg. (R) **2.35** The Secret Life of the Zoo. (R) **3.30** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. (R) **4.25** Mobil 1: The Grid. (R) **4.55** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. (R) **5.05** Cheap Cheap Cheap. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.40** Mofy. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.55** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.35** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.50** Rusty Rivets. (R) **8.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.20** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.40** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.55** Floogals. (R) **9.10** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.25** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.40** Digby Dragon. (R) **10.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.05** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.45** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. **11.10** Blind Date. (R) **12.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.55** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.50** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R) **2.50** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R) **3.50 Film:** Bewitched. (2005) Romantic fantasy comedy, with Nicole Kidman and Will Ferrell. **4.50** Access. **4.55 Film:** Bewitched. (2005) Concluded. **5.55 Film:** Bride Wars. (2009) Comedy, starring Kate Hudson and Anne Hathaway.

7.25 5 News Weekend.

7.30 Dirty Dancing: Making Movie Magic. A celebration made for the 30th anniversary of the movie phenomenon starring Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey first captivated cinemagoers as bad boy choreographer Johnny Castle and would-be dancer Baby. This documentary celebrates the Dirty Dancing phenomenon, revisiting favourite scenes, discovering what happened on set – with contributions from cast members Kelly Bishop, Lonny Price and Jane Brucker – and hearing from the behind-the-scenes team, including choreographer Miranda Garrison and writer Eleanor Bergstein. (R)

9.00 Film: Dirty Dancing. (1987) A dance instructor at a 1960s resort teaches a naive teenager about self-expression as they perform in an important show. Romantic drama, with Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey. Edited for language and violence.

10.00 5 News Update.

10.05 Film: Dirty Dancing. (1987) Concluded.

11.05 Film: The Best of Me. (2014) Premiere. Romantic drama, with Michelle Monaghan.

1.15 Cricket on 5. **2.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Wentworth Prison. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 The Search for Alfred the Great **8.00** The World's Biggest Flower Market **9.00** Olympic Dreams of Russian Gold – Over the Limit – Storyville **10.10** Eric Clapton at the BBC – The Rock 'n' Roll Years **10.40** The Art of Scandinavia **11.40** The Art That Made Mexico: Paradise, Power and Prayers **12.40** David Starkey's Music & Monarchy **1.40** The Search for Alfred the Great **2.40** Eric Clapton at the BBC – The Rock 'n' Roll Years **3.10** Close

ITV2

12.15 Take Me Out **1.30 Film:** Twister (1996) **2.30** FYI Daily **2.35 Film:** Twister (1996) **3.40 Film:** Two Weeks Notice (2002) **4.40** FYI Daily **4.45 Film:** Two Weeks Notice (2002) **5.45 Film:** The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) **6.45** FYI Daily **6.50 Film:** The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Love Island: Aftersun **11.05** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.25** CelebAbility **2.10** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records

ITV3

6.25 Victoria **9.00** Unforgotten **11.00** Wire in the Blood **1.00** Blue Murder **2.20** Liverpool 1 **3.15** Road to Avonlea **5.00** Judge Judy **5.45** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

11.15 Film: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20 Film:** Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) **1.05 Film:** Smokey and the Bandit (1977) **2.05** FYI Daily **2.10 Film:** Smokey and the Bandit (1977) **3.00** Live Cycling. Coverage of the National Road Championships. **6.00 Film:** The Alamo (1960) **7.05** FYI Daily **7.10 Film:** The Alamo (1960) **9.15 Film:** The Outlaw Josey Wales (1976) **10.15** FYI Daily **10.20 Film:** The Outlaw Josey Wales (1976) **12.00 Film:** Born to Raise Hell (2010) **1.00** FYI Daily **1.05 Film:** Born to Raise Hell (2010) **2.05** Minder **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

1.00 Young Sheldon **1.30** The Big Bang Theory **5.55** The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Special **7.00 Film:** Rise of the Planet of the Apes (2011) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Gogglebox **11.05** Gogglebox Australia **12.10** The Big Bang Theory **1.05** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.10** Gogglebox Australia

Film4

1.00 Stuart Little (1999) **2.40** The Return of the Pink Panther (1974) **4.55** Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (2014) **6.50** The River Wild (1994) **9.00** Sicario (2015) **11.20** The Guard (2011) **1.10** Drug War (2012) **3.25** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Lethal Weapon, Channel 5, 9pm
An unstable Vietnam veteran cop teams up with a by-the-book Los Angeles police detective to investigate the apparent suicide of the daughter of a wealthy businessman, leading them to a violent and bloody confrontation with a ruthless drug cartel under the control of a retired US general. Action thriller, starring Mel Gibson, Danny Glover, Gary Busey, Mitchell Ryan and Tom Atkins. (1987)

TUESDAY
Wall of Silence, Channel 5, 3.15pm
When a university student goes missing, her mother, a former police officer, goes in search for her. But what she encounters is a wall of academia bureaucracy and cover-ups that point to an abuse of authority stemming all the way to the government. Thriller, starring Ireland Baldwin, Victoria Pratt and Morgan Taylor Campbell. (2016)

Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome, Friday, ITV, 10.50pm

WEDNESDAY
What Maisie Knew, Channel 4, 12.55am
A six-year-old girl finds herself a pawn in the ongoing divorce of her self-absorbed mother and father, who are both desperate to get custody of the child but blind to her own feelings. As both parents begin disastrous new relationships, the youngster is forced to develop an unexpected maturity to cope with her situation. Drama, starring Julianne Moore. (2012)

THURSDAY
Hidden Truth: Lies Will Surface, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A young woman is forced to prove her brother's innocence after a teenage girl is found murdered in a California town. But she discovers a disturbing dark side to the community, and the hidden identity of the killer. Thriller, starring Shawn Christian. (2016)

FRIDAY
Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome, ITV, 10.50pm
The warrior pitches up in the city of a cut-throat desert community in search of his stolen vehicle and ends up making a deal with a local dictator to get rid of her rival for power. However, when the bargain turns sour, he is cast out into the wilderness. Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Mel Gibson. (1985)

PICK OF THE WEEK

The NHS Choir look to find their singing voice

There have been lots of programmes to mark the 70th anniversary of the NHS, and many of them have made a point of celebrating the service's unsung heroes.

But now those unsung heroes get a chance to belt out a tune for all they are worth as part of The NHS Big Singalong Live.

That's because the NHS Choir is being joined by popstars and celebrities in a bid to smash the world record for the biggest live singalong ever to be broadcast.

The song they will be performing is The Beatles' classic With a Little Help from My Friends (presumably more people knew the words to that than to the Fab Four's more medically minded Doctor Robert).

But breaking a record doesn't just take dedication, it also requires organisation, and in this programme presenters Sara Cox and Ashley Banjo follow the build-up to the big event.

It's a cause that's clearly close to both their hearts. Sara said: "It is so exciting to be part of this challenge to break a world record and celebrate the amazing work of the NHS. We'll be travelling the length and breadth of the UK recruiting people to join in to make sure we smash that record and show everyone working in our NHS how much we appreciate them."

Ashley added: "We want to recognise and celebrate the hardworking and dedicated staff who keep the NHS going every day and highlight the human kindness at the heart of the incredible care and treatment they make available to every single one of us."

The pair will be charting the progress of choirmasters doctor Katie Rogerson and NHS worker Joe Blunden as they scour the health service for potential warblers, while also recruiting a few famous performers as well.

In the process, we'll meet some extraordinary patients and staff, and find out why some of the celebrity recruits have very personal reasons for wanting to support the NHS.

Once the singers are assembled, the presenters will be joining the Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Choir and their famous friends at the iconic Abbey Road studios, where the Beatles recorded the original track.

And more choirs and staff will be joining in the live broadcast from hospitals and other locations across the UK, with one group performing on the cobbles of Coronation Street.

Hopefully, it will be a record-breaking effort, but Joe Blunden's ambitions don't quite stop there. Cameras will capture the excitement when a version of the song is also be recorded at Abbey Road, ready to be released as a charity single.

Joe says: "We are determined to both smash that live singalong record and get to number one!"

And seeing as the Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Choir previously held Justin Bieber at bay to claim the 2015 Christmas number one with A Bridge Over You, maybe, with a little help from the health service's many friends, his dream will come true.

The NHS Big Singalong Live, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
David Walliams Presents - Return of Alright on the Night
ITV, 9.15pm
Now that clips of on-camera mishaps can be shared around the world online, is there still a place for It'll be Alright on the Night on TV? Well, if anyone can persuade us there's still life in the format (which many viewers will forever associate with the now 96-year-old Denis Norden), it's David Walliams. Here, the Britain's Got Talent judge, children's author and all-round one-man-entertainment industry will bring us a selection of classic outtakes, as well as some brand new clips. And if that doesn't sate your appetite for watching TV presenters get it wrong, there's a second edition showing on Tuesday. But the question remains, will Walliams have inherited Norden's trademark clipboard?

TUESDAY
Our Girl
BBC1, 9.10pm
The team struggles to meet Bones's expectations, but the new leader of 2-Section threatens to send one of them home and bring in another medic, putting Georgie's place at risk. The section are assigned to work in refugee camps to help the influx of refugees coming in from Myanmar, which have been set up by Barsha Chowdhrey, the wife of the local police chief. Inspector Chowdhrey is known for his hatred of corruption in the region and at a gala held for the Brigadier, Bones spots a suspect package placed underneath his chair, prompting him to leap into action

WEDNESDAY
Street Food Servants
BBC1, 7.30pm
The fascinating Our Lives strand continues with this documentary, which was originally broadcast last months in the London area, but can now be seen by the rest of the country. Anita Rani tells the story of one man who has devoted his life to helping the homeless. Randeep Singh started his small charity in Southall, London, with just a handful of volunteers but has now transformed it into a sophisticated national task force feeding and clothing thousands of people every week. He is now looking to expand, but that brings a new set of challenges.

The Highland Midwife
Channel 5, 8pm
Community midwife Hayley undertakes a journey from the heart of the Highlands to the city hospital, to help with the delivery of mum Rachel's baby. Meanwhile, in Campbeltown on the west coast, first-time mother Morven is determined to have a local birth and midwife Helen must decide on the safest option for her and the baby, and in Aberdeen, midwife Lydia is assisted by hands-on dad Gordon, who is keen to help deliver his new baby. Narrated by Pam Ferris.

Romper Stomper, Friday, BBC2, 11.05pm

THURSDAY
Nando's: A PERi PERi Big Success
Channel 5, 9pm
It was founded by Fernando Duarte and Robert Brozin in the Johannesburg suburb Rosettenville in 1987 when they visited a restaurant called Chickenland, and now Nando's has over 1,000 restaurants across the globe, with 400 in the UK alone. So what is the secret of its success? This documentary tells the story of the food chain from the company's humble beginnings - it almost sank without trace after opening its first UK takeaway in 1992 in Ealing - to the multi-million-pound brand it is today. The programme also looks at what ingredients go into its famous Mozambican-style peri-peri sauce and how social media exposure and celebrity endorsements (Prince William is apparently a fan) have added to its success.

FRIDAY
Romper Stomper
BBC2, 11.05pm
The 1992 Australian film Romper Stomper, which followed a Neo Nazi group in Melbourne, may have been controversial, but it did help to mark Russell Crowe out as a rising star – it was the movie that persuaded director Curtis Hanson to cast him in LA Confidential. This belated TV sequel may also prove to be a star-making vehicle for its cast, including Toby Wallace as Kane. In this third episode, his mother Gabe (Jacqueline McKenzie, reprising her role from the movie) is heartbroken to discover he's joined a far-right group. Meanwhile, his stepsister Cindi (Markella Kavenagh) has become involved with the anti-fascist movement. So that's setting the scene or a lot of family conflict which threatens to explode in the second half of this double bill.

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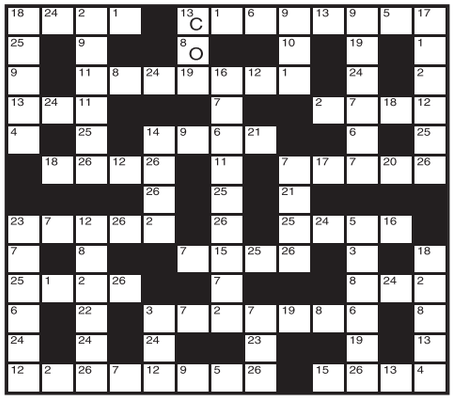
BRAIN GYM

No.486

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



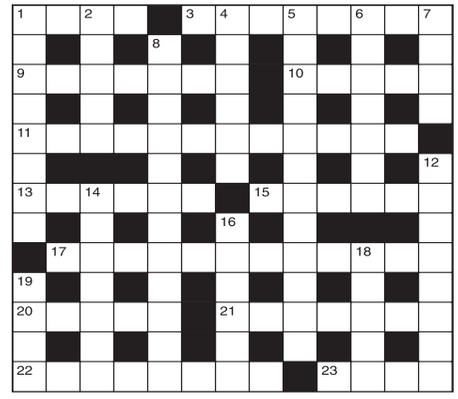
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8 O	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13 C	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Z	C	X	K	G	E	D	R	H	F	S	J	Y
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
N	T	U	A	W	B	L	I	V	Q	O	M	P

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Neckwear, we hear, for a dandy (4)
3. Agreements for cosmetic containers (8)
9. A classical naval battle - for Italian sausages! (7)
10. A long time coming back to the ring (5)
11. A contest among comedians? (6,2,4)
13. Yet all has been rearranged recently (6)
15. Does artistic work and puts the first of the colours in different sheet (6)
17. One with rank on board lacking magnanimity? (5,7)
20. A certain quantity of fuel I treasured (5)
21. A bit of upper turbulence to cause agitation (7)
22. A request certain to give satisfaction (8)
23. Boss required to equine establishment (4)

Down

1. Headquarters Dance in which pitchers are used (8)
2. Apportion a levy that's been raised (5)
4. Son who strangely is being exhibited (2,6)
5. Risk getting your fingers burnt (4,4,4)
6. Sounds like one tricks a wild animal (7)
7. See 14 Down.
8. Brief communications in lower case (5,7)
12. Attributed to the writer in the present era (8)
14 & 7Dn. It may be occupied by the stall-holder (7,4)
16. Small change for the policeman (6)
18. It's a place for trying recreation area (5)
19. It's a mistake to depart unobtrusively (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Irritation (4)
3. Scrawl (8)
9. Imagine (7)
10. Thin silk fabric (5)
11. Parsimony (6-6)
13. Stagger back (6)
15. Picture-house (6)
17. Unavailing (12)
20. Edible bulb (5)
21. Feeling (7)
22. Urgent (8)
23. At one time (4)

Down

1. Unsafe (8)
2. Coppice (5)
4. Eerie (6)
5. Pause (7)
6. Poise (7)
7. A paradise (4)
8. Components (12)
12. Mode of speech (8)
14. Entrust (7)
16. Shelter (6)
18. Sham (5)
19. Ceremony (4)

Sudoku

		2			8		5	
	9		2	6		3		
		6			5	7		
7	4				2	8		
3			4		1			5
		5	6				4	1
		8	3			5		
9		7			6		3	2
	2			5				

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

8	6	3	2	1	4	7	9	5
1	2	4	5	9	7	6	3	8
9	7	5	6	8	3	4	2	1
5	3	1	9	7	6	8	4	2
6	8	7	3	4	2	1	5	9
2	4	9	1	5	8	3	6	7
4	5	8	7	3	9	2	1	6
7	1	2	4	6	5	9	8	3
3	9	6	8	2	1	5	7	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Combine; 7 Cover; 9 Scree; 10 Cast out; 12 Stand at ease; 14 Double fault; 18 Writers; 19 Gaffe; 21 Takes; 22 Amnesia. Down: 1 Pouch; 2 Object; 3 End; 4 Bottle; 5 Request; 8 Caravan; 11 Unheard; 13 Poor law; 15 Butter; 16 Leader; 17 Of gin; 20 Imp.
QUICK - Across: 6 Jocular; 7 Charm; 9 Broad; 10 Quieten; 12 Deportation; 14 Permissible; 18 Hosiery; 19 Impel; 21 Bully; 22 Fatigue. Down: 1 Board; 2 Humane; 3 Gag; 4 Threat; 5 Freedom; 8 Curtail; 11 Consort; 13 Decorum; 15 Mainly; 16 Limpid; 17 Venue; 20 Pay.

Quiz

1. Which country was rocked by the Recruit scandal?
2. Which soccer hero received a knighthood in the 1994 Queen's Birthday Honours list?
3. What does an entomologist study?
4. What is the capital of New Mexico?
5. In which sport is play started by a 'bully'?
6. What is the US's oldest educational institution?
7. Which country's largest lake is Lake Garda?
8. What do we call a single dot on a computer screen?
9. Which genus of tree includes the peach, the apricot and the cherry?
10. Of which war was the Battle of Crecy the first important battle?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Just So Stories; 2 Singapore; 3 Sue Barker; 4 Taffeta; 5 Catherine Parr; 6 Odin; 7 Dutch; 8 New Zealand; 9 A wading bird; 10 Justice of the Peace.

Niner: HARMONICS

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

45689 gives seafood,
946817 gives more seafood,
43265 gives something found in the sea.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Zizzi dishes up a pizza the action

It was a glorious day when we visited Zizzi in Brindleyplace and we'd hoped to sit outside on the terrace out in the sun.

Unsurprisingly, it was full of diners. And so, having clocked that all the outdoor areas at other nearby restaurants were just as busy, we opted to escape the heat and head inside. It was much quieter; it was, in fact, almost empty.

We – the five of us including two heavily pregnant women – all agreed the menu looked delicious and had the standard 'starter and main' or 'main and dessert' debate that women tend to have when they really want starter, main AND dessert.

And so we settled on starters and mains, with the possibility of pud 'if there's room'. The menu is pretty extensive, more than just the pizza and pasta you'd expect at this popular Italian chain.

To start, three of us chose calamari while the others opted for the smoked mozzarella bombetti, otherwise known as 'cheese balls'.

Zizzi Brindleyplace is Birmingham's second

The rustic pizzas served at Zizzi Brindeyplace

SQUID

The starters arrived swiftly. My first impression was that all the dishes looked undercooked. The coating on the calamari was so light in colour it was hard to differentiate it from the white of the squid ring beneath, while the breadcrumb shell of the bombettis were much the same.

Disappointingly, the squid was also rather chewy; I suspect it was cooked from frozen rather than fresh. The accompanying garlic and basil dip was pleasant enough. The cheese balls, which came with a red pepper tapanade dip, were devoured without comment. Presentation was good with each dish in a little silver bucket lined with Zizzi branded greaseproof paper.

One of the pregnant women had opted for a bottle of Orchard Pig's Totally Minted. Described as 'pink grapefruit and mint with a zesty twist of lime' it tasted delicious. Another chose the equally refreshing Orchard Pig Flower Power – an apple and elderflower soft drink. Super duper.

Zizzi Brindleyplace is the Second City's second branch with the original in the Mailbox. They've done a grand job on the interior; it feels modern and spacious, there's an open kitchen where you can watch chefs work pizza dough into shape and shovel them on flat paddles into a wood-fired oven. We didn't have to wait long for our main courses, which also looked as though they'd barely kissed that oven. Pizza crusts, for example, were almost white rather than irresistably golden brown while cheese was just-melted instead of bubbling hot.

This wasn't a concern for me as I opted for the spaghetti pomodoro, which was beautifully cooked. It came topped with half a ball of juicy, sweet buffalo mozzarella.

The tomato sauce was just sharp enough and the pasta cooked to al dente perfection. With a generous grating of parmesan cheese and an extra drizzle of olive oil, I lapped it up. Another friend opted for the pulled beef and venison strozzapreti – a sort of posh bolognese – and reported that it was very tasty.

The pizza eaters were pleased with their choices too.

We stuck to our plan and skipped dessert although options did sound good.

The bill came to £89, which included an online 25 per cent discount voucher. And while everyone seemed satisfied with their food, no one was seemed to be singing its praise either.

EMILY BRIDGEWATER

Goodbye to Year 6

Holy Trinity CofE Primary School

As our Year 6's journey at Holy Trinity comes to an end we wish them well in their new adventures and thank them for their hard work and commitment

Mrs J Corbett *(Head Teacher)*

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It is time to wish the Year 6 children of Eaton Valley Primary School a fond farewell. All members of the school community would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work and commitment. We wish them every success for the future.

Mrs S. Ramsay
Head teacher

PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Four-bedroomed semi-detached has lots of potential

This excellent four-bedroomed semi-detached house in Linchmere Road, Handsworth, comes with two good reception rooms, three bedrooms and a light carpeted, top floor warm attic and storage room with Velux windows.

It is for sale through loveyourpostcode.com at £204,950.

The rear garden is mainly laid to lawn with a side access car port.

The property has gas central heating system and double glazed windows.

A loveyourpostcode.com spokesman said: "The potential in the property is easy to see with 1,578sqft of living space on offer."

The front door opens into a light entrance hallway. The light-filled lounge/diner is an incredible entertaining space with a unique arch making a feature of two separate areas. Double doors lead out into the kitchen. The kitchen has a range of floor-based and wall-mounted units including a skylight window. The kitchen also has a side access to a further store room.

Off the lounge is also a ground floor shower room, a laundry area and a secondary room which can be used as an office.

The final room on the ground floor is the front reception room with large windows, allowing plenty of natural light.

Off the first floor landing are two double bedrooms, of a generous size, and one final good-sized single bedroom. The bathroom has a shower over the bath and the WC is housed separately.

A staircase provides access to the top floor where you'll find the warm, carpeted attic room with large Velux windows allowing plenty of light to come in.

The garden is mostly laid to lawn and is private, with an additional carport and accessible doors. The rear of the garden includes a storage garage. To the front the drive provides off-road parking for multiple vehicles. The local area provides you with useful bus routes such as the 101 and the QM1.

This property is also just minutes away from the St John Wall Catholic School and local parkland.

HANDSWORTH £204,950

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Loveyourpostcode.com
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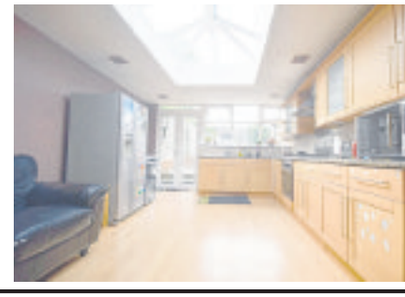
KEY FEATURES

Semi-detached house
Three bedrooms
Attic/storage room
2 good reception rooms
Excellent location



Spacious house an ideal first property

OLDBURY
£130,000

This three-bedroomed end terrace house in Tame Road, Oldbury, is an extremely spacious property, situated in a popular and convenient location.

Within walking distance of local amenities and good local schools, it is in need of some updating, although it does have excellent potential.

An ideal first-time buy, it is for sale through Braithwaites Estate Agents now at offers over £130,000 with no chain.

With gas central heating and double glazing, its accommodation includes a porch, an entrance hall, an extended through lounge/dining area, dining kitchen, three bedrooms, a bathroom, a study and garage.

For further information or to book a viewing, contact Braithwaites on 0121 4211180.

Home waiting for new owners to put their own stamp on it

WEST BROMWICH
£114,950 <<<

In need of some minor cosmetic modernisation, this three-bedroomed terraced house in Telford Close, West Bromwich, is ideal for those wanting to put their own personal stamp on a blank canvas.

It is for sale through loveyourpostcode.com at offers over £114,950.

This home comes with superb commuting links with local amenities within close proximity.

It has an entrance hallway and a through lounge with a dual aspect windows and gas fire. Whilst in need of updating, the kitchen is spacious, having much potential. Off the kitchen is the dining room. On the first floor are two double bedrooms and a single, all being of good proportions.

Contact loveyourpostcode.com on 0800 862 0871.

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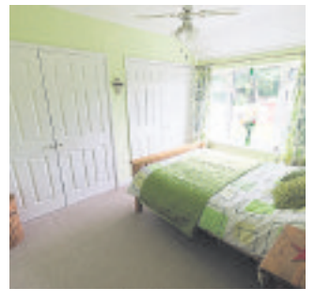

Traditional and extended semi in a desirable town location

OLDBURY
£229,950 <<<

A traditional three-bedroomed semi detached property in one of Oldbury's most sought-after and desirable locations, 121 Victoria Road, Oldbury, lies opposite West Smethwick Park.

Having excellent family accommodation, and having been extended to the rear, it is now for sale through Tom Giles at £229,950.

With double glazing and gas central heating, the home has fitted wardrobes to all bedrooms and a large private established rear garden.

Its accommodation also includes a reception hall, cloakroom/WC, L-shaped kitchen/diner, front sitting room, rear sitting room and a dining room.

For further information, or to book that all important viewing, contact Tom Giles on 0121 552 6171.

Lovely family home has five bedrooms

SMETHWICK
£369,995

This spacious five-bedroomed family home in Burn Close, Smethwick, is well presented throughout.

It is for sale through Connells Estate Agents at £369,995. It has two garages, a large rear garden and a private driveway, downstairs WC, dining room, a lounge, second reception room, kitchen and a front garden. The entrance hall has a downstairs WC off. The second reception room has windows to the front. The dining room has sliding doors from the lounge and a patio door. The kitchen has a gas oven and a gas hob with a cooker-hood, a dish-washer, fridge freezer, under-stairs storage and a door to the two garages. Of the five bedrooms, one has an en-suite.

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Land adj. 57 Boulton Road, Handsworth

A freehold development opportunity.

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Guide Price* : £70,000 (plus fees)

Ground Rent 54 Leopold Avenue, Handsworth

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Guide Price* : £32,000-£36,000 (plus fees)

The Queens Head Public House, Farm Street, Hockley

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Guide Price* : in excess of £225,000 (plus fees)

Land at Bromford Walk, Great Barr, Birmingham

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207 Chantrey Crescent, Great Barr, Birmingham

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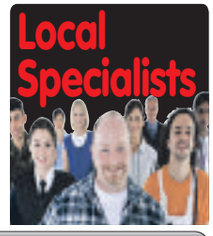

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W.H. SERVICES PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
★ Fitted Kitchens ★ Damp Proofing
★ Fitted bathrooms ★ Tiling (wall and floor) ★ Flooring
★ Complete House Renovation
★ Flat Roofs ★ Plastering
★ Painting & Decorating
★ Plumbing / emergencies
★ Building work
All work guaranteed
For a FREE quote call Wayne on:
Tel: 0121 556 5294 Mobile: 07817 727261

The ASA regulates ads on websites.

#socialmediatoo

ASA.org.uk
Advertising Standards Authority

To advertise your business and reach more than 46,000 potential customers...

Call us on: **01902 319573**

Post to: **Advertisement Department, Sandwell Chronicle, Black Country House, Rounds Green Road, Oldbury B69 2DG**

Classified Ads

Buy Local, **Sell** Local

Funeral Directors

Turn To Us For Help and Support

In your time of need we'll take care of all the funeral arrangements.

- Est. 1907
- 24 hour service

G. Gibbs
Funeral Directors
44 All Saints Way
West Bromwich B71 1PZ
0121 553 0442

Dignity
Part of Dignity plc. A British Company.

1 Family

Elderly & Disabled

MOBILITY EQUIPMENT REPAIRS Stairlifts, Scooters, Wheelchairs and Batteries: Call 0121 522 3311.

2 Leisure Time

Boats & Water Sports

DAWNCRAFT 25 CRUISER 15HP TWIN OUTBOARD MARINER ENGINE
Needs good clean and tidy up. Moored at Wheaton Aston.
£2,995 ono.
0780 8855076.

Caravans/ Motorhomes

A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW 35x12 caravans from £10,000.Gym Par 3 golf, bowls, why go further? www.bcpark.co.uk 01584823433.

CARAVAN FOR SALE

FOR SALE.-Sterling Eccles Moonstone 4 Berth Caravan. end washroom layout 2003 model. Large pneumatic awning.Many extras

£3,995 ono

07745 737288

Holiday Home for sale -2017 Willerby Wrekin

BRAND NEW Limited edition, enhanced features £28,995 on a stunning 5 star park in The Welsh Marches set above the River Severn with private fishing & stunning Bowling Pavilion Nr. Shrewsbury. Will appeal to retired people & couples.

Call Ron or Margaret:
01743 885080
www.sevenoakspark.co.uk

holidays

Travel Abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertisers that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

Self Catering Holidays

BURNHAM-ON-SEA
Self Catering Holiday Apartments
Disabled Facilities
Pet Friendly
01278 794111
www.GoSomerset.co.uk

Yorkshire

YORKSHIRE DALES
Meadow Holidays
Country Cottages / Suites in Wensleydale
" Weeks from £209 per couple
" Weekends just £99 per couple
Families Welcome
Walk in scenic countryside by waterfalls or visit historic market towns with friendly Inns
Brochure (24hrs) 01969 624145
email: rita@meadowholidays.com
www.meadowholidays.com

mind, body & soul

Massage

Mobile deep tissue aromatherapy massage treatment by qualified therapist
By appointment **07437 569187**

Sports & Leisure

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
To sell items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

REEBOK ONE SERIES GT 30 treadmill, folds, 16 levels of electronic incline, 12 months old, £300 o.n.o. 01543 467950.

what's on

Markets

STOURBRIDGE CAR BOOT
At Stourbridge Rugby Club
Open every Wednesday from 16th May
07957 399964

Summer Fayre

SUMMER FAYRE
Saturday, June 30,
12am - 2pm,
in St Peter's Church Hall,
Whitehall Road,
West Bromwich.
Bouncy castle etc.
Admission 20p.

SUMMER FAYRE
St Mary's Church Hall
Wednesbury
12 o'clock start
Saturday, June 30.
Lots of Stalls
& Refreshments.
Admission 20p

Table Top Sale

CHARLEMONT METHODIST CHURCH
Charlemont Road, West Bromwich, B71 3DU.
Table Top Sale
Saturday, June 30.
9am - 12 noon.
£5 per table.
To book 0121 567 5404.

3 Home & Services

Furniture

BROWN LEATHER corner settee, 5 seater, excellent condition, £300 o.n.o. 07851 218581.

FURNITURE NOT SOLD? Donate it to Katharine House Hospice. We collect for free. Telephone Cannock 01543 466885, Stafford 01785 247630, House clearance service 01785 760715.

katharine house hospice
Reg charity number: 1011712
Furniture not sold, why not donate it?
We can turn your quality used furniture into 1st class care for patients at Katharine House
Call us now on 01785 760715
for details or to arrange a FREE collection

Household Appliances

New Stock Arrived
All At Discount Prices
Cookers, Fridges & Freezers, Autos, Fires & more
SAME DAY DELIVERY
Past & Present
24 - 26 Church Street Bilston, (opposite town hall)
01902 403770

In Your Garden

6x5 Lap Panels
£17 each (inc vat)
WS3 2BQ
Bloxwich Fencing Ltd
or 01922 712184

BLOXWICH FENCING
Supply and Fit or DIY
Credit cards taken • Free quotes
WS3 2BQ
01922 712184

C B SHEDS & FENCING
We supply & fit. Free quotes.
Call: 01922 720270
We also supply sleepers and decking

Items For Sale

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
That the Business Advertisements(Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

ASH RECLAMATION new and used building materials, upvc doors and windows 01543 453222.

CORRUGATED GALVANISED Sheets. New, £8 can deliver. Also box profile and PVC/polycarb. David Broxton on 07834 489558.

ASH RECLAMATION
All reclaimed building materials
UPVC doors and windows
New and Used
Gatehouse Trading Est.
Lichfield Road, Brownhills, WS8 6JZ
01543 453222
07956 627367

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

Items Wanted

WANTED
VINTAGE TOYS
Star Wars, He-Man, Ghost Busters, Ninja Turtles, Corgi or Dinky.

All vintage toys considered.

Good prices paid.

Unleash the cash in your loft.

Call Tony on 07812 903338.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

Loans

READERS ARE REMINDED that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

PC's, Laptops & Accessories

CLIENT COMPUTERS Certified technician and microsoft partner. Repair and maintain laptops and pcs. Virus removal, broken screens, wifi, windows problem etc. Laptops available. 0121 556 9481

CLIENT COMPUTERS
Certified technician & Microsoft partner.
Repair & maintain laptops and PCs. In West Midlands.
Virus removal, broken screens, wifi.
Windows problems etc.
Home visits or bring to me.
Long established.
Laptops available.
0121 556 9481

specialists at your service

Aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS Checkatrade.com
AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99
01902 858191 • 01384 429166
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"

"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

AERIAL & SKY SPECIALIST
Digital Aerials Fitted
Sky & CCTV Cameras
Free Quotes. 7 days
07850 330251

Alarms/Security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £249
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

Building Supplies

RECLAIMED BRICKS, Tiles, Slates, Oakbeams, Flooring, York Stone. Cawarden 01889 574066. sales@cawardenreclaim.co.uk

Carpentry & Joinery

SPR CARPENTRY Six internal pre-primed doors fully fitted from £395. 0121 5322672 or 07958 552625.

Carpet Fitters

A CARPETS & VINYLS supplied or just fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quotes call Mark 01543 820598 / 07941 619694.

Carpets & Upholstery

SURECLEAN
Services Of Stafford
Carpets and upholstery, cleaning and treatments
Competitive rates and multi room discounts
07908 621681

Driveways & Patios

P.W DRIVEWAYS
The Block Paving Specialists.
Patios, Driveways, Pathways, Landscaping & more.
Special Offer £50 PSM
We will beat any like for like written quote
Free Quotes & Advice
01785 609076
(Based in Stafford)

TW LANDSCAPES
Driveway Restoration Specialists
Cleaning & Sealing, Patios, Driveways, Decorative Gravel Drives
All aspects of Landscaping, Fencing, Patios, Walls
New Block Paving & Tarmac Drives
WE WILL NOT BE BEATEN ON PRICE
Free no obligation quotation call: 01785 878574 or 07845 483443

Fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards **£795**
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"

"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."

Michael- Portway Fencing

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

Gardening Services

H. COOPER & SON Landscaping / garden maintenance. No job too small, Free Quotes: 07904 929632.

Landywood Tree & Landscaping Services
All garden work, tree felling/lopping, pruning, hedges trimmed, turf, patios, fencing, block-paving etc.
www.landywoodlandscaping.co.uk
01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976

Gas Fitting

GAS SERVICES
- Boilers • Cookers
- Fires • Gas Checks
- Landlord Certificates
- Gas Leaks Traced

Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

Gates

ALL METAL GATES,RAILINGS, etc. Free quotes, also repairs & fitting. 07903 500642 24 hours.

DARLASTON FABS 30 years exp in supplying/ fitting gates and railings. Free quotes: 07497 667752.

Handyman Services

HANDY MAN - All trades, washing machines, outside taps, showers, plumbing, heating, gutter cleaning. Free quotes call: 07850 559315.

YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN
FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed, Most trades covered, References available on request. No job too big or too small!
CALL MIKE: 07947 621047
0121 6010479

LOCK & CARPENTRY plumbing, plastering, small job specialist. Call 01902 683100 or 07934 460864.

House Clearances

A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE
Full, part and single rubbish removed.
Garage and sheds cleared.
Leather 3 piece suites and leather chesterfields wanted.
01922 492007

A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE
Full, part and single rubbish removed.
Garage and sheds cleared.
Leather 3 piece suites and leather chesterfields wanted.
01922 492007

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327 / 01902 534021**

ALL ROUND CLEARANCE
Professional family run business
House clearances full or part, also garages, sheds etc.
Telephone Kev
07794 912844

Kitchen Fitters

THE KITCHEN FITTER Over 20 years experience. Call 07881 654757 or 01543 373233.

Lock Services

LOCKRITE local father and daughter locksmiths, lock-outs, broken locks, UPVC specialist, 24hr service. 01922 780078.

Plans Prepared

ADAM DESIGN, Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

PROFESSIONAL HAND ink detailed drawings prepared submitted 01922 684503 07730 888063.

Rubbish Removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed.Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

Painters/Decorators

Express & Star
DECORATORS!
CLAIM YOUR FREE ADVERT
(T&Cs Apply)

Call Claire Smith: 01902 319661
claire.smith@expressandstar.co.uk

Plumbing & Heating

J.H. HEATING AND PLUMBING
- Central heating installation and repairs
- Bathrooms supplied and fitted or fitting only
- Kitchen installation
- Tiling, replastering, carpentry and building work
- Electrical work

DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL
Tel: 0121 531 1932
Mobile: 07775 029452
www.jhheatingandplumbing.com
jhheatplumb@gmail.com

A.A HEATING & PLUMBING All gas work. Install/ Service/ Repair. Free quotes call: 07540 950588.

ALL PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN
No job too large. All work guaranteed.
Call Will for a free quote
07521 411108

Keiron Jones Plumbing & Heating
Full heating systems £2200
Boiler Changes £1100
Longer warranty available upon request, fires and surrounds also available.
For Free Quotes Call:
01902 403823 07811 855231

PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN No job too small or large. Call or text Will free quotes on: 07521 411108.

Plastering

MINT PLASTERING
For the very best in plastering and rendering, full rooms inc materials from 110. Halls, stairs and landings from 200
30 years experience.
Free quotes. All work guaranteed
01543 327130 / 07519 694516

MINT PLASTERING & rendering 30 yrs exp. All work guaranteed. 01543 327130 or 07519 694516.

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE Clean and Reliable, All Work Undertaken, All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

Removals

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
13 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

KC REMOVALS We beat any quote, full or part loads, all areas. Anything considered. Call on 07867 862227.

KT REMOVALS 13 yrs exp. Single items to full load removals. Local / distance. Call Ric: 07771 727119.

Roofing

MG ROOFING
Flat Roofing, Tiling, Roof Repairs, Fascias and Gutters.
Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.
www.mgroofingwestmidlands.co.uk

Skip Hire

A absolute affordable skip
RUSSELL SKIPS
Mini, midi skips
Prompt delivery / collection
(0121) 520 3388 / 07721 387990

GOLDSHILL SKIP & SELF DELIVERIES
BRING YOUR WASTE TO US
(any size vehicle)
General, green, wood (can work out cheaper than a skip)
OR
HIRE A SKIP FROM US -
Phone for prices
0121 557 3346
82 Pikehelve Street, West Bromwich, B70 0TU

STONES SKIP HIRE
0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875
www.stonesskiphire.co.uk

Upholstery

MR B'S UPHOLSTERY
RE- UPHOLSTERING OF SOFA'S, DINING FURNITURE, CARAVANS, CAR RETRIMS AND MORE.
www.mrbsupholstery.uk
01543 877572 07738 851601

t.v. / home entertainment

Service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky, CCTV cameras. TV wall mounts and TV set ups. 07850 330251.

CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"

"TV Link are really pleased with their response from their Classified Campaign"

Bill - TV Link

For great business results call **01902 319 191**

ClassifiedAds Brought to you by Express & Star

4 Pets & Animals

Equestrian Corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information, this is a legal requirement.

Guns & Dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

Pets Corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

JACK RUSSELL, one year old, male, called Gizmo, work committments forces sale. 07803 536291.

5 Business & Farming

Commercial Premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

Commercial Premises Sale / Let

Leasehold / Freehold
- Newsagents / Printing Business with potential to increase Convenience sales
- Highly profitable operation in West Midlands
- Priced to sell at £75,000 for the business, plus S.A.V
- All offers will be considered

Contact 07811 113027.

6 Property

Accommodation To Let

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

J9 Accommodation
NO DEPOSIT
★MOVE IN TODAY★
Studios *from* **£90pw***
Rooms *from* **£65pw***
*Includes Most Bills
CHECK WEBSITE FOR LIVE LIST
Midland Landlord Accreditation Scheme
01902 213121
J9accommodation.com

TWO BED end terrace Rugeley, large garden, off road parking, £575pcm. 07817 598321. No Dhss.

WALSALL bedsit with en-suite and rooms to let. Fully furnished. 07825 581676.

Overseas Property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

7 Jobs

Courses

ABK SECURITY SERVICES LIMITED
We provide Training in:
• First Aid / Health & Safety • Safe Moving & Handling • Security (SIA)
Call 01299 879 015
Email enquiries@abktraining.co.uk | www.abksecurity.com

Drivers

HGV CLASS 2 DRIVER general haulage. UK work, nights out. Good rates. Tel 07973 493720.

Engineering

CNC MILLER SETTER / OPERATOR
West Bromwich
New Fanuc Controlled Machines Small Batch Runs
Minimum 5 years experience
EXCELLENT RATES OF PAY
Pension and Healthcare after Trial Period
Please send C.V to:
accounts@bellcliffe.com

Properties Wanted

FAST CASH FOR YOUR PROPERTY™
- Reposessions stopped
- Houses bought in any condition
- Legal fees paid
- Probate Estates Welcome
- Mortgages / Loans Cleared

CASH PAID WITHIN DAYS!
FREEPHONE **0800 121 6007** OAKWOOD HOMEBUYERS
Friendly, local company here to help you 7 days a week. Est. 10 years.
www.oakwood-homebuyers.com

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
We also buy Commercial Property
Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

Yes! HOMEBUYERS
We will buy your house fast!
Free Valuation? Yes! Any House? Yes!
Fast Sale? Yes! Any Location? Yes!
No Fees? Yes! Any Condition? Yes!
FREE, GUARANTEED, instant offer today!
Call 0121 663 1797
or text "Cash" to 66777
yeshomebuyers.com

Employment Wanted

DRIVER SEEKS WORK
7.5T licence, CPC, etc.
Very experienced on everything, lorry or van, anything considered or nights.
Full or part time.
01922 516528.

8 Motoring

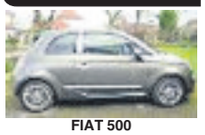
Cars Over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

AUDI A3 SPORTS MODEL 1.6 TDI
Diesel, 5 door, colour Ibis White, first registered March 13, one owner, 22,000 miles, MoT and FSH, parking sensor. The car can be seen between 12:00 - 1:00 or after 6pm, either in Smethwick or Birmingham
£8,560
(Reduced for quick sale).
07930 558830

BMW 318 DIESEL
Cat D.
MoT.
£3,300.
07440 741733.

Cars Over £1500



FIAT 500
2011, 55,600 miles, EW, stop/start, AC, Bluetooth, usb, glass roof, CD player, CL, MOT, 1 previous owner, alloys, tinted rear windows, spare wheel, tool kit, FSH.
£3,995ono.
07918 621300. (no text)

NISSAN NOTE AUTO
2011 (61), 29,000 miles, 1.6L automatic, air con, fsh, MoT October, cruise control, alloys, sat nav system.
Good condition.
Has been well looked after.
£5,995
07939 663349.

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY
VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.8 EXCLUSIVE
2009.
99,000 miles.
12 months MoT.
Bargain price for quick sale, cheapest around.
£1,550.
07909 229016.

Cars Under £1500

ALFA ROMEO 156
2.5 V6, 5 door, 2001, silver, leather, good original condition, bluetooth, future classic.
New MoT, must view.
£1,375.
07465 837148.

CHEVROLET LACETTI
Red, 1.4 petrol hatchback, 58 reg, 72,000 miles, MoT June 2019, fsh, excellent condition, reliable, economical,
£600 ono.
01785 284021 evenings

MUST BE SEEN
MAZDA 3 2.0 SPORT HATCHBACK
2005, one owner, 123k miles, fsh, MoT August 2018.
Well maintained vehicle.
£1,150
01922 691387

PEUGEOT 407SW DIESEL
2.0 HDI 6 Speed 06 Reg. Cambelt, clutch and flywheel changed. Full History. 135K Lovely clean condition. MOT.
£1,495 ono
01543 467532 / 07808 255190
Cannock

Classic Cars

CLASSIC CAR
MGB ROADSTER
1976, 71,000 miles, 1 owner on logbook, recent new paintwork, new interior, carpets and steering wheel.
£5,300
0121 526 4793 or
07808
072963.

Scrap Vehicles

mainline Salvage & Recovery
- SCRAP CARS WANTED
- FREE COLLECTION
- TOP PRICES PAID

Fully Licensed • C.O.D Issued
No Fines • No Comebacks
1000's of vehicle parts in stock
01902 871111 • 07772 240819
07895 346811
www.mainlinesalvage.co.uk

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or
0121 557 0400.
Oldbury Area.

Vehicles Wanted

CROWN MOTORS
Guaranteed best price for your unwanted cars and vans
07903 549849
buyer will call

9 Local Information

Public Notices

PUBLIC & LEGAL NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on **01902 319694** or email **marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk**
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

ALAN HERITAGE STANAWAY (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 39 Salop Road Oldbury West Midlands B68 9AA, who died on 26/03/2018, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 31/08/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
SILKS SOLICITORS LTD
27 Birmingham Street Oldbury
West Midlands B69 4DY *TS32347*

LICENSING ACT 2003
I Jagjeet Singh of Nijjar Brothers 151 Rolfe Street Smethwick B66 2AU Herby give notice I have applied under S17 Licensing and in accordance with S12 Licensing Act 2003 for a Premises Licence for the above mentioned premises, namely For the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Mon - Sun 08:00 - 02:00

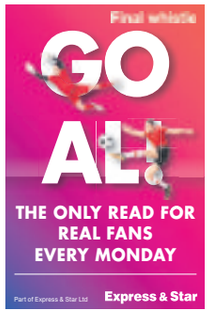
Regulated Entertainment, namely Plays, Films, Indoor Sporting Events, Boxing or Wrestling, Live Music, Recorded Music, Performances of dance, Anything of a similar description

Mon - Sun 08:00 - 02:00
For Late Night Refreshment
Mon - Sun 23:00 - 02:00

Any person wishing to make a representation regarding the application must do so in writing to Trading Standards and Licensing Adult Social care, Health and well being Sandwell Council House PO Box 2372 Oldbury B69 3BS , email: licensing_team@sandwell.gov.uk not later than 16th July 2018. A copy of the application may be inspected during normal business hours.

It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale, under section 158 of the licensing act 2003 to make a false statement in or in connection with this application.

PMB LICENSING (Authorised Agents)
Dated 18th June 2018



SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Earl Street, West Bromwich) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2018 intends to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along Earl Street, West Bromwich between Guns Lane and Duke Street. Traffic will be diverted via Guns Lane, Duke Street and vice-versa. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 11/07/2018, effective from 09/07/18. Purpose – repair defective valve by South Staffordshire Water.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Lombard Street West, West Bromwich) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2018 intends to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along Lombard Street West, West Bromwich between High Street and Edward Street. Traffic will be diverted via Victoria Street, Edward Street, Dartsmouth Street and High Street. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 27/07/2018, effective from 09/07/18. Purpose – works to install new gas connections by Balfour Beatty for Cadent Gas.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Bromford Lane, West Bromwich) (Temporary One-Way Operation and No Waiting At Any Time Restriction) Order 2018, intends to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along Bromford Lane, West Bromwich between Livingstone Road and Brandon Way / Kelvin Way roundabout other than in a north easterly direction. Alternative routes for south westerly bound vehicles will be signed via Brandon Way, Wood Lane, Oxford Road, Price Street roundabout, Moor Street, Bromford Lane and vice-versa, also via Lyttleton Street, Sams Lane, Spon Lane, Kelvin Way and vice-versa. Vehicles will be prohibited from waiting or loading at any time on Bromford Lane, West Bromwich between Livingstone Road and Brandon Way/Kelvin Way roundabout (on both sides of the road) for the duration of the works. Emergency service vehicles will be exempt. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 14/07/18, effective from 10/07/18. Purpose – repairs to a water main to rectify an issue with low pressure by Onsite for South Staffs Water.

Department for Transport

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

The Secretary of State gives notice of the proposal to make an Order under section 247 of the above Act to authorise the stopping up of a length of Heathfield Lane West, including its connection with Bridleway BP1 Darlaston, and a length of Bridleway BP1 Darlaston at Wednesbury, in the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall.

If made, the Order would authorise the stopping up only to enable development to be carried out should planning permission be granted by Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council. The Secretary of State gives notice of the draft Order under Section 253 (1) of the 1990 Act.

Copies of the draft Order and relevant plan will be available for inspection during normal opening hours at Walsall Council, The Civic Centre, Walsall, West Midlands, WS1 1TP in the 28 days commencing on 28 June 2018, and may be obtained, free of charge, from the address stated below quoting NATTRAN/WM/S247/3351.

Any person may object to the making of the proposed order by stating their reasons in writing to the Secretary of State at nationalcasework@dft.gsi.gov.uk or National Transport Casework Team, Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7AR, quoting the above reference. Objections should be received by midnight on **26 July 2018**. You are advised that your personal data and correspondence will be passed to the applicant/agent to enable your objection to be considered. If you do not wish your personal data to be forwarded, please state your reasons when submitting your objection.

D Hoggins, Casework Manager

10 Personals

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Ford Kuga takes to centre stage as star of video project

Videographer Zaak takes with him all manner of kit

By Jack Evans

Modern SUVs, such as our Ford Kuga currently on test, need to be adept at all tasks. These include driving the kids to school, carrying five people in plenty of comfort across long distances or, in our car's case, transporting camera equipment and the tame lens-handler who accompanies it.

Our resident videographer Zaak takes with him all manner of kit, with large Peli cases full of lenses, camera bodies and sound equipment – taking up a good amount of space. Fortunately, the Kuga's decent-sized boot is square and deep enough to fit everything. With the seats folded flat, it offers up a competitive 1,603 litres of space.

It provided a comfortable and dependable base camp on a recent shoot, and really did live up to the go-anywhere idea behind these sort of compact SUVs – despite the Kuga's lack of four-wheel-drive.

It also dealt well with a recent jaunt up to Manchester. With the boot packed with luggage and the cabin filled with occupants, it managed to while away the 200 or-so miles from the south coast up north with very little fuss. Its passengers exited at the other end with few complaints.

The real bonus here is the smooth 1.5-litre diesel engine that settles down impressively well at motorway speeds and the automatic gearbox, which takes the sting out of stop-start traffic.

The Kuga posing for the camera!

Both occasions are real examples of how versatile the Kuga can be, and how capable it is when facing a number of challenges.

Ford claims that the Kuga should be able to return 58.9mpg combined, but the results we've been seeing are a little way short of this. Overall, we've been averaging around 45mpg – still decent for a car of this size, but a little disappointing given the official claims.

Is there anything we'd change, given the chance? The wheels, perhaps. Though the optional alloy wheels fitted to our ST-Line specification car do look good and give the Kuga a fair amount of presence, they generate quite a lot of noise and give a sharpness to the way the car rides. It's certainly not uncomfortable, but if you're after top-notch ride quality, then we'd be opting for a smaller alloy size.

We'd also like to change the gear selector, as we're finding it too easy to slip into 'Sport' by mistake. It's located underneath 'drive' in the gearbox's gate, and can easily be selected when bringing the gearstick down.

You're then left wondering as to why the car is hanging on to gears quite so eagerly; it's meant to do this in sport mode, but it's often quite disconcerting when you haven't meant to select it.

The rubbery feeling to the steering remains whichever mode you're in, but in truth you soon get accustomed to it.

The same can be said for the Kuga's driving position, which is relatively high and confidence-inspiring, but somewhat different to any other SUV on sale today.

Overall, our Kuga is proving capable in all manner of conditions, and is showcasing just how useful these compact SUVs can be – and certainly why they're experiencing huge popularity at the minute. There are niggles, of course, but they're relatively small.

It's likely that the Kuga will be in frequent use in the coming months – during summer time, the extra space that a SUV affords makes it ideal for camping trips, runs to the tip and everything in between, so we'll see just how it gets on with all manner of activities.

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, June 28, 2018

Sustainable push by Volvo for its vehicles

Volvo committed to minimising environment footprint

Volvo is aiming to ensure that from 2025, 25 per cent of the plastics used in its new cars will be made from recycled materials.

The Swedish car maker is also asking industry suppliers to ensure the next generation of automotive components is made as sustainably as possible, making use of recycled plastics wherever they can.

To demonstrate the company's plans, Volvo unveiled a unique version of its XC60 SUV built using a variety of plastic components made from recycled materials.

The main tunnel is created from renewable fibres, while the floor carpets have been made from fibres created by combining recycled cotton mixes and plastic bottles. Used car seats from old Volvo vehicles were used to create the sound-deadening material for underneath the bonnet.

Håkan Samuelsson, president and CEO of Volvo Cars, said: "Volvo Cars is committed to minimising its global environmental footprint. Environmental care is one of Volvo's core values and we will continue to find new ways to bring this into our business. This car and our recycled plastics ambition are further examples of that commitment."

It follows on from an announcement last month, in which the car maker said it would be eradicating the use of single-use plastics across all of its premises and events by the end of 2019. In addition, Volvo has committed to a plan of electrifying all new Volvo cars launched by the end of 2019, with the aim being to ensure that fully-electric cars make up 50 per cent of the manufacturer's car range by 2025.

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CARS WANTED FOR CASH

Mazda RX-7: celebrating an icon for its 40 birthday

By James Parker

The year was 1978, UK inflation hit a six-year low, the Bee Gees dominated the charts, while flared trousers and bouffant hair was the height of fashion. It was also the year that Mazda unveiled the RX-7, a car that played a vital role in establishing Mazda's reputation for building celebrated driver's cars.

In the 1970s car makers the world over found themselves faced with the grim reality of a global fuel crisis. Soaring petrol prices meant few drivers wanted to own big, gas-guzzling V8 sports cars, so a new approach was needed. Responding to the challenging environment, Mazda's brightest brains set about creating a new kind of sports car – one that would be smaller, lighter, more efficient and – most important of all – fun to drive.

So in the home market of Japan, Mazda revealed the ground-breaking RX-7. Its compact yet powerful rotary engine allowed the power unit to be mounted lower and further back resulting in a car that set new standards in road holding. The formula was a hit with customers and critics alike. Car and Driver magazine, one of America's most influential car magazines, placed the Mazda RX-7 on its annual Ten Best list five times.

The original RX-7 'FB' proved a huge success. More than 470,000 driving enthusiasts bought one, before the second generation 'FC' model was introduced with turbo power in 1985. The third generation 'FD' followed in 1992 until production of the iconic RX-7 ended in 2002.

In addition, the RX-7's success in competition around the globe further cemented its position as a one of the world's best sports cars. The RX-7 took overall victory in the 1981 Spa 24 hours, competed at Le Mans, took part in the awe-inspiring world of Group B rallying and claimed the 1980 and 1981 BTCC titles. In the USA, the RX-7 took an unmatched 100 wins in 12 years of IMSA competition and won the GTU class at the 1979 Daytona 24 hours.

Win Percy, the British racing driver who took both the RX-7s BTCC championships, was blown away by the speed of the Mazda RX-7: "I won the title in 1980 and team owner Tom Wilkinshaw said: 'Let's go for it and try to win races outright next year.' We duly did, beating the Rovers and Capris and I took the title again. It was a very capable little car – you really could call it a giant killer."

And Pierre Dieudonné who drove a Mazda RX-7 to victory in the 1981 24 Hours of Spa said: "That win was very important to Mazda. It was the first time a Japanese car manufacturer had won that race - the RX-7 didn't have the image of something like a Porsche. But winning at Spa gave it the prestige."

To mark the 40th anniversary of the Mazda RX-7, Mazda brought together all three generations of the sports car in a film that documents the evolution of the most successful model to be powered by a rotary engine: view at youtu.be/jaOtLK4hDF8

Classic Mazda RX-7s star in a special birthday celebration

One of the last RX-7s produced in 2002 at the end of its production

Be alert to early signs of road rage

Road safety and breakdown cover specialist GEM Motoring Assist is encouraging drivers to protect themselves by being alert to early signs of road rage.

The warning follows release of disturbing dashcam video appearing to show an angry driver in the West Midlands shunting a fellow motorist and causing a high-speed crash.

GEM road safety officer Neil Worth commented: "Most of us will have some experience of being on the receiving end of someone else's aggression.

"Thankfully, violent and unprovoked attacks are very rare, but it pays to be observant and if possible to recognise any signs of trouble at their earliest stages."

GEM has identified a few steps (taken from its 'Courtesy on the Road' leaflet) that will hopefully reduce the risk for a driver of being the target of someone else's aggression:

1 Keep calm and show restraint. Every journey brings the risk of frustration and conflict. Make a pledge to be patient. Avoid using your horn or making gestures in anger.

2 Avoid competition and resist the desire to 'get even'. If the standard of someone else's driving disappoints you, don't attempt to educate or rebuke them.

3 Don't push into traffic queues. If you wait and clearly signal, you won't wait long before another drive lets you in. But they don't like being forced into giving way.

4 Say thank you, say sorry, Courtesy encourages co-operation on the road. If you make a mistake (and we all do!) or perhaps cut things a bit fine, then a gesture of apology avoids confrontation and helps defuse anger.

5 Move away from trouble. If you feel seriously threatened by another driver, then ensure your car doors locked and drive (at legal speed) to the nearest police station or busy area (petrol station forecourts are ideal). Use your mobile phone to alert the police. Pressing the horn repeatedly or continuously is likely to deter a potential attacker.

Neil Worth concludes: "We encourage drivers to leave plenty of time for their journeys, which means they can feel calm and in control at the wheel.

"Stress can lead to risk taking, and this in turn increases the likelihood of aggressive incidents. We also urge drivers to avoid becoming involved in situations they recognise as dangerous or risky.

"If you're worried about another driver who may be in danger, then stop and call the police." Free copies of GEM's Courtesy on the Road leaflet are available for download from http://www.motoringassist.com/the-gem-story/leaflets/

Keep calm and show restraint

An early Wolves kit featuring stripes in 1904

Peter Broadbent in a vintage 1950s strip

All gold was worn in the 1960s

Captain Mike Bailey lifts the League Cup in 1974

Kitted out throughout the years

Andy Gray in another League Cup winning kit, 1980,

GOLD shirt, black shorts... sounds simple, doesn't it?

Wolves' famous colours are known the world over but due to contractual obligations to try to persuade fans to fork out the best part of £50 a year, the classic gold and black look has been tampered with many times over the years – with good and bad results.

Wolves of course actually started life playing in red and white stripes, perish the thought, and while the stripes stayed until 1922, the colour quickly changed to a deep gold and black.

Conquered

For 40 or so years came the definitive classic gold shirts and black shorts, including through the club's glorious heyday of the 1950s where the 'old gold' was gloriously prominent as Stan Cullis' team conquered the country and beat some of Europe's finest.

The old gold extended to shorts in the 1960s and then from the 1970s onwards came a fancy new logo and a darker shade of gold, worn by Mike Bailey when lifting the 1974 League Cup. Technology allowed for synthetic fibres to be worn by the time 1980 came around when another League Cup victory saw Wolves wear their last sponsor-free shirt.

SPORTING FEATURE

By Tim Spiers

Tatung and Benjamin Perry were the club's first sponsors but due to successive relegations and the worst period in Wolves' history, they aren't remembered half as fondly as Staw Distribution whose logo adorned shirts in the Steve Bull renaissance era, which included a Wembley win in the Sherpa Van Trophy in 1988. After four years of pinstripes, the faint two-shaded stripes were also a hit with fans.

Then, to coincide with the start of years of mediocrity in the 1990s, a ghastly shirt complete with quite bizarre tyre marks (to reflect Goodyear's sponsorship) was unveiled in 1992 – and prematurely scrapped a year later.

A no-nonsense 1994 edition complete with a return to the Wolverhampton coat of arms was a rare success in the modern kit era.

In 1996 came a love-it-or-hate-it wolf head template kit with plenty of black on the arms. A far more popular version of the black sleeves came in 2014. A number have been met with general indifference – but the new old gold version is a reversion could prove a popular choice.

The 2014 side donned smart sleeves

The 1992 tyre marks as worn here by Paul Cook

John De Wolf in a 1994 classic with coat of arms

Steve Bull celebrates a goal in a 1996 wolf head kit

Danny Batth models the new old gold home kit

Jones thinking big ahead of ring return

CONNOR Lee Jones is thinking big as he prepares to get busy as a professional boxer. Jones, of Brierley Hill, faces a quickfire second bout next month, stepping back in the ring less than a month after his pro debut with a hometown contest at Dudley's the Venue on July 7.

He features in a four-round contest, on the 'Usual Suspects' show under the BCB Promotions banner. The 22-year-old lightweight was last in action on June 9, at Willenhall Baths, and impressed with a whitewash points victory over former English title challenger Liam Richards.

Major prizes are now in his mind. He said: "This show in Dudley is an easy one for me and my fans to get up for. It's close to home and should be a great atmosphere."

Top of the bill, Wolverhampton-born duo Matt Sen and Josh Burke collide in a Black Country battle for the eight-round British Challenge cruiserweight title. Dudley cohorts Danny Ball and Josh Miller, Brummies Aaron Lovell and Daryl Pearce and Wolverhampton's Kirstie Bavington feature.

Academy develops to celebrate 20 years

STEVE Bull was guest of honour to mark 20 years of New Park Village Football Development. He was joined by another ex-Molineux striker, Mel Eves, and more than 300 guests at the Ramada Hotel, to mark the anniversary of the initiative set up by Joe Jackson and his wife Debbie in 1998.

Having conducted work as part of a school liaison programme, Jackson, who began at Wolves, making one senior appearance before a successful non-league career, started the NPV Academy in 2000. It now boasts multiple teams at six different age groups – from under-8s to under-12s, plus an under-16 side. It also runs holiday football schools.

Jackson, who managed Bilston Town, Stourbridge and Bromsgrove, said: "My experience showed me that there was a group of young people in the system, at risk of falling through the cracks. I felt there needed to be another set-up to help those that couldn't be reached within school."

To join an acedemy team, or for holiday club details, email npvfootball development@yahoo.co.uk

Steeling a march on rivals in play-off bid

DELIGHTED chairman Rob Amor believes Sandwell Steelers are starting to hit top gear as they take a big step towards the play-offs.

Steelers beat Shropshire 34-7 and need only two more wins to confirm their place in the post-season competition.

It means Steelers remain on the heels of NFC One South leaders Leicester Falcons, who inflicted their only defeat of the season to date. A run of three straight home games, starting with the visit of Doncaster Mustangs on July 1, provides a chance to set up a showdown for the conference title when they face the Falcons again in the final week of the regular season.

Amor was purring about an offence which has now scored more than 200 points in five games. He said: "We have got an explosive offence and at the moment they are showing no signs of slowing down.

"We got off to a quick start and didn't look back. Once we had the lead, the defence stood up again and apart from the one touchdown they got, didn't let them get a look in."

Sport

Kitted out! Wolves strips throughout years in focus

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Albion 2018/19 football fixtures

aug	4	Bolton	h
	7	Nottm Forest	a
	11	Norwich	a
	18	QPR	h
	25	Middlesbrough	a
sep	1	Stoke	h
	15	Birmingham	a
	18	Bristol City	h
	22	Millwall	h
	29	Preston	a
oct	3	Sheff Wed	a
	6	Reading	h
	20	Wigan	a
	24	Derby	h
	27	Blackburn	h
nov	3	Hull	a
	10	Leeds	h
	24	Ipswich	a
	28	Swansea	a
dec	1	Brentford	h
	8	Aston Villa	h
	15	Sheff Utd	a
	22	Rotherham	a
	26	Wigan	h
	29	Sheff Wed	h
jan	1	Blackburn	a
	12	Norwich	h
	19	Bolton	a
	26	QPR	a
feb	2	Middlesbrough	h
	9	Stoke	a
	12	Nottm Forest	h
	16	Aston Villa	a
	23	Sheff Utd	h
mar	2	Leeds	a
	9	Ipswich	h
	13	Swansea	h
	16	Brentford	a
	30	Birmingham	h
apr	6	Millwall	a
	9	Bristol City	a
	13	Preston	h
	19	Hull	h
	22	Reading	a
	27	Rotherham	h
may	5	Derby	a

Battling Brummies brush aside Belle Vue

BIRMINGHAM gave one of their best all-round displays of the season to brush aside reigning league champions Belle Vue 53-36 in front of a buoyant Perry Barr crowd.

They then followed up by stunning the leaders at home, taking maximum points from their 50-40 away win. After a bright start, which saw them leading by four points with three gone, the hosts plugged away to peg Brummies back. Belle Vue had the better of the mid-section and opened up a 29-25 lead after nine races.

But with lower end trio Callum Walker, Layne Cupitt and Arran Butcher struggling for points, team manager Laurence Rogers utilised star reserve Leon Flint to maximum allowance.

Used three times on the spin as a reserve substitute, the 15-year-old linked up with his heat-leading team-mates to help swing the pendulum back in Birmingham's favour.

First he won Heat Ten after James Shanes team rode the youngster home before vital third places with Tom Bacon and Shanes taking the chequered flag in two terrific, tight tussles with home duo Jack Smith and Kyle Bickley.

Bacon came out on top in a breathtaking side-by-side encounter with captain Smith in Heat 13 before Brummies wrapped up victory with a race to spare as Flint completed a stunning 16-point haul with Walker also collecting a crucial third place.

And when Bacon again won the battle of the skippers, taking his fourth race win of the night, that ensured Brummies headed back to the Midlands with all four league points to their name courtesy of six heat advantages to round off the fixture.

The result shot Birmingham up to second in the standings who travel to the Isle of Wight on Thursday (June 28, 7pm).

MOORE'S JOY AT HOME START

BOSS Darren Moore expressed his delight at Albion being handed a home opener to the Championship season.

The Baggies will kick-off their campaign on Saturday, August 4, when they host Bolton at The Hawthorns.

It will be Moore's first game since being appointed the club's permanent head coach in May.

The 44-year-old initially took charge following Alan Pardew's exit in early April and won plaudits after taking 11 points from six games, though he was unable to pull off the extraordinary and save Albion from the drop.

Bolton, managed by Phil Parkinson, avoided relegation to League One on the final day of last season.

Moore said: "It's great to be at home for the first game of the season. No matter what game it was, it's always going to be a tough one, it always is for the first game of the season but I'm looking forward to it."

A busy few weeks is expected at Albion as Moore looks to rebuild his playing squad ahead of the new campaign, their first outside the Premier League since 2010.

Several players are expected to leave, with the boss having made his first big decision of the close season earlier this week when he opted to release long-serving stars Gareth McAuley, Claudio Yacob and Boaz Myhill.

Albion's squad will report for pre-season training on Monday, before heading off to a training camp in Portugal on Tuesday. Moore admitted the release of the fixture list had provided everyone a target to focus on.

He explained: "For me and for us all here at the football club, let's just focus on that first fixture of the new season. And focus all of our energy and attentions on that.

"I'm really pleased, as I say, that we're at home on the opening day. It's the start to a very, very tough Championship campaign."

After facing the Trotters, Albion head to Nottingham Forest on Tuesday, August 7, for a match broadcast live on Sky Sports.

Lloyd looks forward to racing

Lloyd, frustrated at Darley Moor after his RVF failed to start. Picture: Steve Snelling

NEIL Lloyd enjoyed his first ever stint at the Pre TT Classic so much he is already plotting a return to the Isle of Man.

The Wednesbury rider has been riding classic machinery this year, as well as his usually-reliable and trusted 400cc Honda. Even if racing the older bikes has, inevitably, thrown up its fair share of mechanical headaches, Lloyd is looking forward to more racing this summer. The 48-year-old entered a CB500/4 and BSA in the Pre TT Classic, which is raced before the main Isle of Man TT fortnight as a celebration of bikes from a bygone era. The races take place around the 4.25-mile circuit used for the Southern 100, in Billown, meeting Lloyd will be racing in next month.

"We had a good Pre TT in the end," said Lloyd. "We started off with practice on the Friday evening and took our CB500/4 out first.

"It was a good run, especially considering it was the first time I'd ridden a classic bike on the roads, and only the second time I'd actually ridden that particular bike.

"The Billown course and Southern 100 club are fantastic, and we're already looking forward to being back there in July."

Tyler on track for title clash in warm-up

TYLER Denny will warm-up for his English Title tilts with six-round bill topper at Walsall Town Hall next month.

Last week, the BCB signed boxer received news from the British Boxing Board of Control that he will compete for the English crown. The Midlands Area Middleweight Champion, Tyler Denny, has been mandated to face Leeds' Reece Cartwright.

With the contest out at purse bids, BCB's Head of Boxing, Errol Johnson, has moved quickly to get Rowley Regis fighter Denny out in readiness for his title tilt.

"It's important to get Tyler out," Johnson told bcb-promotions.com. "Tyler's last fight was a six-rounder in May so he needs a few rounds in before starting camp for the Cartwright fight."

Also on the bill, which will take place at Walsall Town Hall on Saturday, 21st July is BCB's new signing, super bantamweight, James Beech Junior. The Bloxwich native, who made the switch from MTK Global last month, is joined by fellow Walsall boxers super lightweight, Shaun Cooper and Levi Ferguson who debuts at super welterweight.

Wolverhampton cruiserweight, Antony Woolery is also in action alongside Birmingham bantamweight, Ijaz Ahmed. 'England Awaits' is sponsored by Grosvenor Casino Walsall. Tickets, priced at £35 standard unreserved and £65 VIP Ringside, are on sale now from the Walsall Town Hall Box Office 0845 111 2900.

Dartmouth defeat against the leaders

LEADERS Shrewsbury defeated West Bromwich Dartmouth by 14 runs at Sandwell Park in the Birmingham League Premier Division.

Will Parton scored 73 in a Shrewsbury total of 194 with Kadeer Ali (3-50) and Shozair Ali (3-57) the pick of the Dartmouth attack. After reaching 75-3, Dartmouth slipped to 105-8 before Shozair Ali blazed five boundaries and four sixes, but it wasn't enough and Dartmouth were 180 all out.

Smethwick beat Wardens thanks to a maiden league century from Warwickshire left-arm spinner Sunny Singh. He was unbeaten on 107.

★★★

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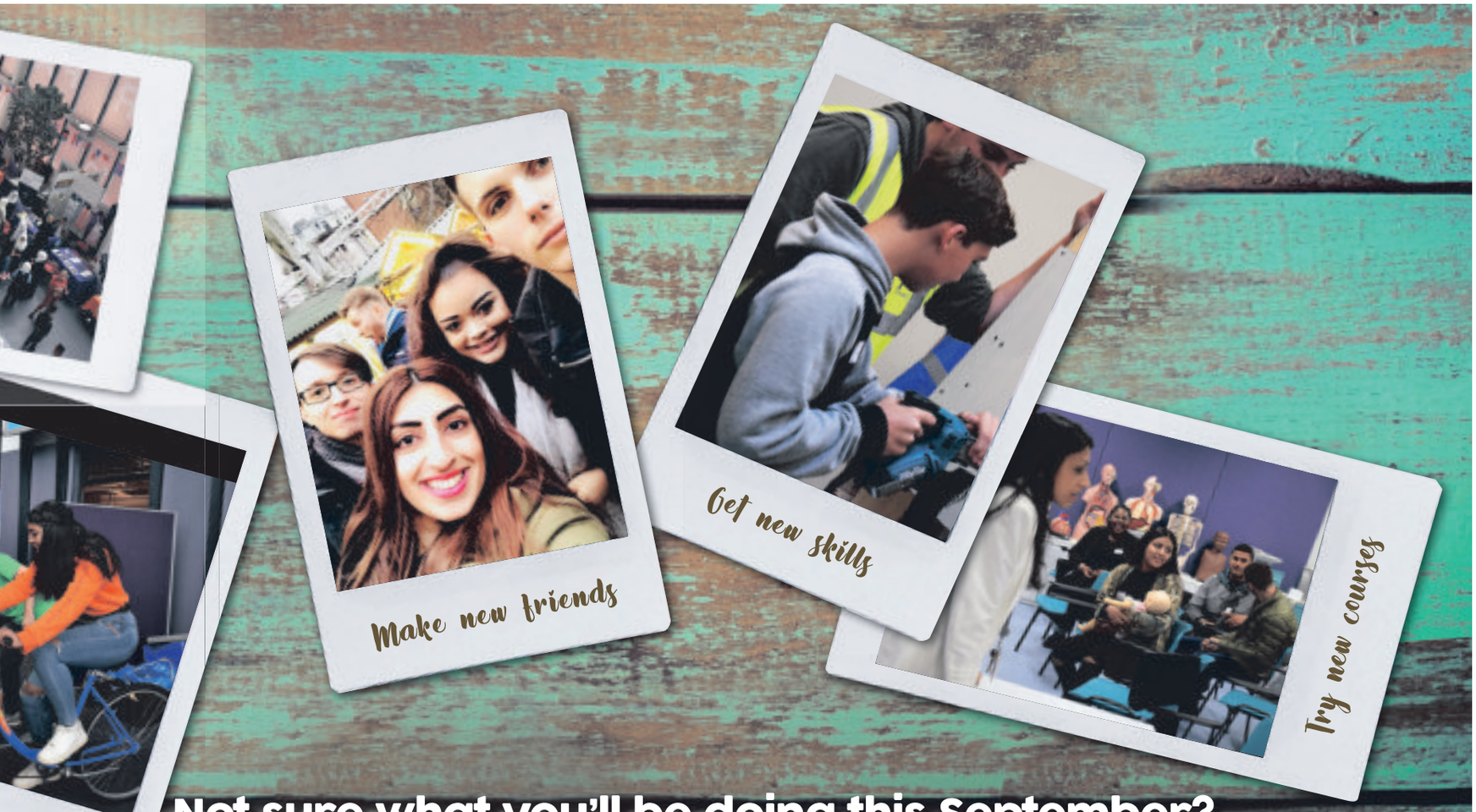

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